

Rose Garden FAQ's

1) How many roses are in the Tyler Rose Garden?

a. At last inventory in 2008 or 2009, there were over 32,000 roses accounted for.

2) How many different varieties (cultivars) of roses are in the TRG?

a. Again from the latest inventory, over 600 varieties or cultivars of roses were accounted for.

3) How many acres does the Tyler Rose Garden consist of?

a. There are a total of 14 acres of and in the TRG with approximately 5.5-6 acres containing roses.

4) How are the roses in the TRG watered?

a. In the grass areas in between the rose plantings-beds, pop up or spray heads water both turf and the grass areas.

5) What are the 3" or 4" pipes used for that are noticeably in the rose beds?

a. The pipes are connected to perforated (sewer & drain) type pipe approximately 2' below the beds and act as a vent to remove excess water.

6) Are the roses fertilized and if so, what type fertilizer is used?

a. It has been our experience that a slow release type fertilizer similar to an osmocote fertilizer in feeding the roses over an extended time such as 4-5 months, works best. Typically roses need a 2-0-2 or a 2-1-2 ratio for growth.

7) In preparing to plant my roses, should my soil be prepared any certain way?

a. It is best to get a soil analysis of the site you intend to plant roses in. This can be done by picking up instructions and a sample bag from the County Extension Service and then after gathering the sample, sending it in to determine what the soil pH (acidity or alkalinity) is and what type nutrients should be added to grow roses. Roses prefer a slightly acidic pH of 6.2-6.5. In addition a 50% of humus/organic matter and well drained sandy loam soil is best.

8) Can I grow roses in poorly drained or wet type soil such as clay?

a. Roses do not like 'wet feet' or poorly drained soil and will not perform well in those conditions. However, in more clay type soil, it is best to add a certain amount of sandy loam or a product such as expanded shale to allow for improved drainage.

9) How much sunlight do roses require?

a. Full sun works best for roses in our area, but would perform well with at minimum 6 hours of either direct sun or good light. Light is needed for growth of foliage and bloom production.

10) What type roses are in the Tyler Rose Garden?

a. There are many types of roses from what most think of as a rose such as a hybrid tea-HT (normally a single rose per stem) to floribundas-FL (a cluster or spray of roses) to grandifloras-GR (somewhat similar to a combination of HT & FL roses), to miniature-M roses, to climbing-CL roses, and shrub-S type roses.

11) Does the Tyler Rose Gardens have any antique or old garden type roses?

a. Yes, there are antique or heritage type roses in the Heritage garden within the TRG. In most cases, these can be roses introduced before 1867, but often are from early in the 1900's and are usually easy to grow.

12) What are the Earth-Kind roses I hear that are easier to grow?

a) Earth-Kind is a concept promoted by Texas A & M, on roses that require less care than most modern roses (the His, FL's, GR's, Miniatures, and several climbers). EK roses require less water, little fertilizer (normally humus suffices), little to no spraying for disease or insect problems and can grow in what seems to be the harshest of conditions. A prime example is several of the roses planted on the various medians around Tyler. There are at last count 21 roses on the EK list.

13) When are the best times to see roses in bloom in the TRG? What about roses in general?

a) There are two peak seasons for roses in the TRG, mid-April to June and again in mid-October until mid- December. Both times depend upon the temperatures and the first bloom in spring is normally what most considers the best.

14) When is the best time to prune my roses and why should I prune?

a) If your roses consist of hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras and miniatures, the optimum time in our area to prune, is around Valentine's Day (mid-February), normally a month before our last killing frost date. Pruning roses helps shape or encourages the rose to grow as it should as well as stimulating new growth. Climbers are pruned differently by only removing older canes once the basic framework for the rose is developed.

15) Along the line of pruning, how much should I remove or prune from my rose plant?

a) A good "rule of thumb" in pruning roses is to remove approximate 1/3 to 1/2 of the top growth in the late winter to spring. In pruning, first look at removing any dead or diseased canes and first, then prune all other canes W' above a good outside bud on each cane.

16) What are some common disease problems I may have in growing roses? How can I identify a disease problem?

a) One of the most common diseases of roses is black spot which show as actual black irregular spots on the foliage which causes defoliation is more severe cases. This can be controlled by application of a specific fungicide which kills or inhibits growth of the black spot fungus. The disease is dependent on cooler temperatures and high humidity.

b) Another common disease on new growth on roses especially in spring is powdery mildew. It appears as a white powdery growth on foliage and the stems. Use a fungicide which specifically controls and kills the spores of the powdery mildew fungus.

17) What are some insect problems that roses have?

a) Aphids which are sucking type insects which are common on new growth in spring time are one of the most common insect problems and are controlled by a general purpose insecticide.

b) Flower thrips are another problem on roses and though not actually insects, can be controlled by most insecticides'(always read the chemical label!). These critters actually get in the flower bud before

it opens and rasps the young flower petals as they are developing and cause a discoloration and disfigures the flower as it opens.

18) During the summer heat, I notice a discoloration or mottling of the foliage on my roses. What causes this? Sometimes it appears that there is somewhat of a spider type web on these?

a) On the underside of the foliage, spider mites will feed causing a discoloration or lack of green in the tissue. It is very difficult to see, but the spider like critter can be seen moving around the leaf underside. A contact miticide is used to control the mite, normally with two applications.

19) How often are the roses replaced in the TRG? How long can roses live?

a) There are roses replaced or new roses planted each year. As many as 2,000 roses are replaced or planted in most years and other times, 400-500 roses replace older roses or roses in decline. Much is dependent upon what new roses are introduced and are available. While some roses can live 20 + years, some may need to be replaced in less than 5-6 years, dependent upon growing conditions.

20) I noticed that it seems that the TRG uses pine needles or straw in the rose plantings, why?

a) The pine needles act as a mulch to conserve moisture and help in the control of weeds. In most cases, it does not adversely affect the soil pH or acidity, but this is checked every couple of years.

21) What is the black cloth that is in several of the rose beds?

a) The cloth is a type of weed barrier material used which does allow the soil to "breathe" but can affect the soil temperature in summer.

22) Can I plant bedding plants or bulbs with my roses? What about planting a bed of roses under my trees?

a) It is usually fine to interplant smaller growing bedding type plants with roses as long as they have similar water requirements. In contrast, in most cases, it is not advisable to plant roses under the drip line of trees due to root moisture competition and poor sunlight.

23) What are those large trees in the planters outside on the back balcony? They have light pink flowers and a sweet fragrance.

a) That is a Plumeria, a tropical tree which you will find in places such as Hawaii.

24) What is that plant underneath the staircase as you go into the Rose Garden?

a) It is a variegated hydrangea which blooms in early summer. Sometimes it is called Lacecap.

25) What are those slick bark trees behind the back wall of the main fountain in the Garden?

a) Those are Crape Myrtles and will bloom in the summer. There are many types and colors such as white, pink, lavender, purple, and the most common, red.