

**DUNN FORMAL
ROSE GARDEN**

Arguably the most widely-recognized flower, the beauty and diversity of modern roses is celebrated in the Dunn Formal Rose Garden, given in memory of William R. J. Dunn, Jr, who first envisioned a botanical garden in Birmingham. Originally designed in 1963, and updated by Robert Kirk in 1988, this beautiful and popular feature is laid out in a classic cross-axial style, with strong formal (mirror-image) symmetry. Elegant structures provide architectural counterpoints: a columned cypress pergola, dedicated to Beverley Dunn, offers a shady respite. At either end, large urns (see our *Sculpture Guide* for more information on sculptures), given in honor of Jeanne Cunningham, billow with seasonal offerings. The garden is in bloom from April until frost, with a spring peak around mid-May and a fall peak in mid-October. The collection consists of up to 115 varieties of hybrid roses.



Bird's Eye View



Rosa 'Peace'



Rosa 'Henry Fonda'

A NEW ERA

Jean-Baptiste Guillot, gardener to Emperor Napoleon and Empress Josephine of France, is credited with creating the first modern rose in 1867. He used so-called "hybrid perpetuals," which were weakly re-blooming, and tea roses from China in his breeding, and named his initial creation- the first hybrid tea rose- 'La France.' Along with the huge size and rich fragrance of its flowers, it boasted a first in the world of roses: a heavy, reliable and dramatic season-long flowering cycle. From this esteemed beginning the modern rose era began; since then countless hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, polyanthas, climbers, miniatures and, more recently, shrub roses, have been bred.



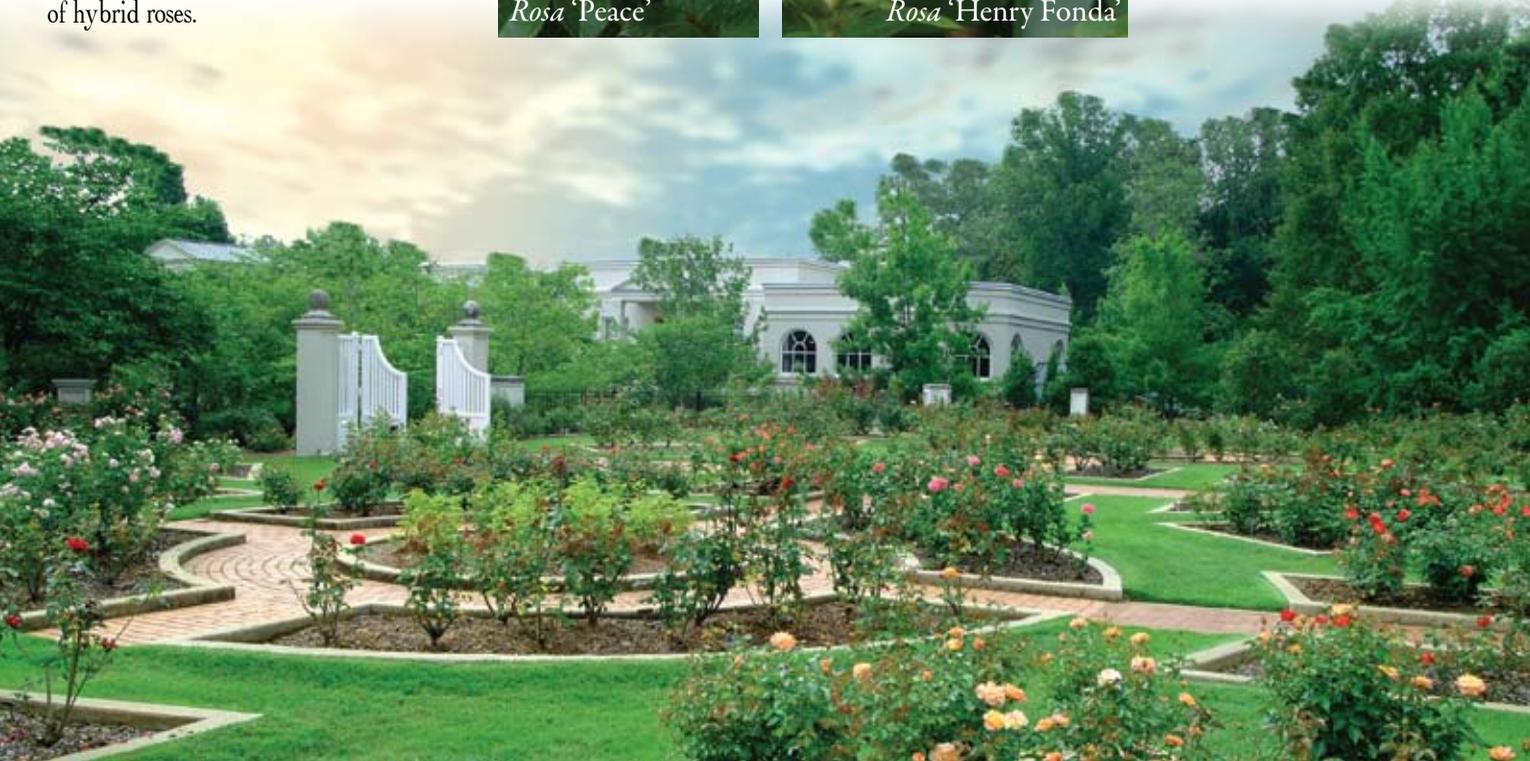
ROSES IN COMMERCE

Growing roses is big business in the landscape and cut flower trades. The introduction of a new rose results from years of research, breeding, and field evaluations, and represents a substantial investment in money and time. Such a venture promises financial reward and merits legal protection. The first plant patent in the United States was issued for a rose, the cultivar known as 'New Dawn,' in 1931. Today, new rose varieties are backed by massive marketing campaigns, conspicuous packaging and, often, celebrity names to accompany their patents. Commercial production of roses is concentrated in the U.S.A., as well as France, Holland, Israel, Mexico and Colombia.



Rosa 'Rhapsody'

TRADEMARK/ COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	TYPE	HEIGHT	FLOWER COLOR	FRAGRANCE	DISEASE RESISTANCE
Carefree Beauty™ rose	Rosa 'Bucbi'	shrub	4-5'	rose-pink	moderate	good
Elle® rose	Rosa 'Meiberos'	hybrid tea	2-3'	pink to ochre	highly fragrant	excellent
Knock Out® rose	Rosa 'Radrazz'	shrub	3-5'	red blend	light fruity	excellent
Lady Banks' rose	Rosa banksiae 'Lutea'	climber (thornless)	up to 50'	double yellow	slight violet	excellent
Mme. Plantier rose	Rosa 'Madame Plantier'	hybrid tea	4-8'	creamy white	sweet & heavy	powdery mildew susceptible
Nearly Wild rose	Rosa 'Nearly Wild'	floribunda	2-4'	rose-pink	mild to moderate	black spot and powdery mildew susceptible
New Dawn rose	Rosa 'New Dawn'	climber	8-10'	medium pink	sweet to fruity	excellent
Queen Elizabeth rose	Rosa 'Queen Elizabeth'	grandiflora	up to 7'	pink	little to none	black spot susceptible
Rise 'N Shine rose	Rosa 'Rise 'N Shine'	miniature	1-2'	medium yellow	mildly fragrant	fair
Russel's cottage rose	Rosa 'Russeliana'	polyantha	6-12'	intense pinkish-red	strong old perfume	powdery mildew susceptible
Veterans Honor® rose	Rosa 'JACopper'	hybrid tea	4-5'	red	raspberry	black spot susceptible



DUNN FORMAL ROSE GARDEN

A GARDEN OF COLLECTIONS



The Dunn Formal Rose Garden is an official All-America Rose Selection Display Garden; new introductions are displayed every year and it perennially wins AARS maintenance awards. To learn more about roses, visit The Library at Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Get involved with the Birmingham Chapter of the American Rose Society whose members actively tend this garden; call our Volunteer Office at 205.414.3962.

Note: This garden is closed to visitors once a week for maintenance, usually Tuesday.



Rosa 'Strike It Rich'



Rosa 'Elina'

GROWING ROSES

As popular as they are, roses are not the easiest plants for average gardeners to grow. So-called shrub and landscape types are notable exceptions, but most hybrid roses are demanding, requiring full sun, consistent moisture, good drainage, timely and proper pruning (encourages re-blooming), and regular treatment for pests. In our moist, humid climate, roses are especially prone to fungal infections, and leaf and root diseases; for healthy plants, repeat chemical applications are almost a certainty.



Rosa 'Elle'

However, shrub and landscape roses are markedly different than their kin. These user-friendly roses were popularized (and breeding efforts were concentrated) because beginner and average gardeners, and landscape designers demanded easy care, reliable performance and pest-tolerance along with their flowers. These adaptable roses grow in a dense, shrub-like fashion, and although their individual flowers are smaller, most are stunning in bloom, repeat well, and offer some fragrance; a few have attractive fruit, called hips. Chemical applications are seldom necessary for health and vigor.



Rosa 'Hot Cocoa'

<p>HYBRID TEAS: They generally bear one flower per stem and are particularly beautiful in bud, with a long pointed form that opens delicately into a delightful double flower with a high central cone. The color range is the most complete among roses; there are even "blue" (actually, lilac or lavender) hybrid teas. They are often moderately to strongly perfumed and bloom off and on throughout the season. Plants generally reach about three feet in height in cold climates and up to five feet in warmer ones.</p>	<p>POLYANTHAS: Generally low-growing, bushy plants, averaging 18 to 24 inches in height, they have small leaves and dense clusters of small flowers on short stems in shades of white, pink, red, and orange. The blooms may be single, semi-double or double. Among the latest roses to bloom in spring, they continue to flower until frost.</p>	<p>FLORIBUNDAS: Floribundas are quite variable in height, ranging from 18 inches to three and a half feet. They generally form more attractive, less rigid plants than hybrid teas. Floribundas bear clusters of small to relatively large flowers (up to two to three inches across) on moderately long stems and come in a full range of colors. Some are single-flowered or semi-double, but most modern hybrids are fully double. Constant bloom is perhaps the main characteristic of this group; they are rarely out of flower. Although floribundas are not generally known for their fragrance, this class does contain several highly perfumed varieties.</p>	<p>GRANDIFLORAS: Tall-growing roses, these often reach five feet or more in height, even in harsh climates. They are sturdy, upright-growing plants that are generally well-clothed in large, shiny leaves similar to the leaves of hybrid teas. They bear clusters of large flowers that, in the best cultivated varieties, are as attractive in both bud and bloom as hybrid teas, although often not as perfumed. Grandifloras generally bloom continually over the flowering season rather than in bursts.</p>	<p>MINIATURES: Since miniature roses are available in so many different forms, defining them is difficult. Even their height is deceptive: while truly tiny miniatures rarely reach more than six inches, many other miniatures eventually grow to three feet. The major characteristic of this group is a combination of small flowers on thin stems with diminutive foliage. Generally speaking, they either remain or can easily be maintained at less than 18 inches in height. Their flowers can be simple, semi-double, or double, clustered or single, fragrant or odorless. They have as wide a color range as any class of rose and more growth forms than any other, from shrubby to creeping to climbing. Most are everblooming.</p>	<p>OLD GARDEN ROSES: Old Garden Roses are the predecessors of today's roses. Some date back to the time of the Roman Empire when they were revered for their beauty and fragrance. Old Garden Roses comprise a multi-faceted group that in general are easy to grow, disease-resistant, and winter-hardy, with most providing fragrance for the garden and home.</p>
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The publication is donated by: The Dunn - French Family
Fred Spicer: Text. Andrew Krebbs: Photography. Rob Lagerstrom: Photography.
Gooseprints: Design. Special Thanks: Bob Eskew and George Zary.