



EarthKind Roses

“EarthKind™” is the most prestigious horticultural designation bestowed by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service (part of the Texas A&M System). The designation is based on extensive field tests conducted by and under the direction and supervision of Texas A&M horticultural experts. Only a few special plants possess the extremely high level of landscape performance coupled with the outstanding disease and insect tolerance/resistance that are required in order to receive this designation. Simply stated, roses receiving the EarthKind™

designation have been scientifically proven to be the finest, most thoroughly tested and most environmentally responsible plants selected for use in landscapes and gardens.

In 2001, the Houston Rose Society extended a substantial financial grant to Texas A&M to continue and expand upon its initial EarthKind™ research. As a result of the grant, additional cultivars are being subjected to the same exacting research criteria in an effort to identify more cultivars deserving of the EarthKind™ designation. This is the largest research effort of its kind ever conducted on roses.

Roses which have received the EarthKind™ designation have been scientifically proven to do well in almost any soil type, from well drained acid sands to poorly aerated high alkaline clays. Roses studied in this research program were subjected to the meanest possible conditions in an effort to replicate the extreme conditions roses are subjected to by the home gardener. Specifically roses in the research program were:

- Never sprayed with fungicides, pesticides, miticides, or Neem oil;
- Never fertilized with commercial or synthetic fertilizers;
- Never pruned or deadheaded (except to remove dead wood);
- Not provided supplemental irrigation after the first full year of growth; and
- Planted in native soils with pH ratings as high as 8.0.

The only humane treatment the roses received was maintenance of a 3” layer of hardwood mulch throughout the study period and drip irrigation until the plants’ roots were established (about 1 year).

Rose cultivars receiving the EarthKind™ designation have been scientifically proven to reduce the need for application of pesticides/fungicides by 98% and reduce the need to apply supplemental watering by at least 70%.

These roses are certainly not immune to pest problems. Their tolerance to pests and disease, however, is so great that as long as you do not mind a few leaflets dropping occasionally, almost never will you need to apply harsh pesticides to these roses!

As with any rose, EarthKind™ varieties should be planted where they receive at least 8 hours of direct sunlight each day in a location that has good air circulation. We do not recommend that you water at night. Maintenance of a 3” layer of native hardwood mulch will help insulate the root zone, guard against moisture loss and help reduce weed growth. (Rose beds maintaining a 3” layer of hardwood mulch were shown to require 25% less supplemental watering than beds without mulch).

OWN ROOT ROSES

To be EarthKind™ the roses listed in this brochure must be grown on their own roots. Grafted plants of the list cultivars are not EarthKind™.

ROSES WHICH HAVE RECEIVED THE EARTHKIND™ DESIGNATION

To date, 17 roses have received the EarthKind™ designation and almost all are suited for gardens in Tennessee (zones 6 and 7). The mature height/width if the plant is in parenthesis:

Belinda's Dream – pink Shrub Rose (5'x5') introduced in 1992. Very double fragrant blooms (100 petals). Zones 5-9.

Caldwell Pink - lilac pink Found Rose (4'x4') with pom-pom shaped double blooms. Zones 4-9.

Carefree Beauty (“Katy Road Pink”) – medium pink Shrub Rose (5'x4') introduced in 1977. Semi-double blooms very heat/drought tolerant. Zone 3b-9.

Climbing Pinkie –pink Polyantha Rose (10'-climber, 5'x7' shrub) introduced in 1952. Semi-double fragrant blooms that traditionally have a very heavy spring bloom and a lighter flush of blooms in the fall. Zones 4-9.

Else Poulsen – pink Floribunda Rose (5'x5') introduced in 1924. It has semi-double blooms. Zones 4-9.

Knock Out™ -cherry red Shrub Rose (4'x4') introduced in 2002 with single blooms. Zones 5b-9.

Marie Daly –pink Polyantha Rose (3'x 3') introduced in 1999. It has semi-double fragrant blooms. Zones 5-9.

Mme. Antoine Mari – pink blend Tea Rose (4'x3.5') introduced in 1901. It has double fragrant blooms. Zones 6-9.

Mutabilis (the “Butterfly Rose”) –a China Rose (6'x6') introduced prior to 1894 that has single-petaled blooms (5 to 7 petals per bloom) which change colors from yellow to pink to crimson. Zones 5-10.

New Dawn - a Large-flowering Climbing Rose (15'-20'x10') introduced in 1930. Blush pink double blooms will tolerate some light dappled shade. Zones 4a-9.

Perle d'Or –peach Polyantha Rose (4'x4') introduced in 1884 with pom-pom shaped double fragrant blooms. Zones 4-9.

Sea Foam –creamy white Shrub Rose (3'high x 6' wide) introduced in 1864. It has double blooms. Zones 4-9.

The Fairy – light pink Polyantha Rose (3'x 4') introduced in 1932. It has double blooms. Zones 4-10.

For more information about EarthKind™ Roses or EarthKind™ Environmental Landscape Management Systems, please see <http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu>.

For more rose information please go to:

www.nashvillerosesociety.com

