



chicagobotanic garden



Walk through
the Rose Garden
and discover many
of the best roses
for the Chicago area,
chosen for their
outstanding performance,
hardiness and
disease resistance.

THE TIMELESS ALLURE OF ROSES

Roses have been beloved for centuries. As early as the first century A.D., wealthy Romans carpeted their floors and beds with rose petals. Many years later in the 19th century, Empress Josephine collected over 250 types of roses in her magnificent gardens at Malmaison, starting a worldwide interest in growing roses. Today at the Chicago Botanic Garden, roses continue to instill admiration in the Rose Garden—one of our most loved and most visited gardens.

Krasberg Rose Garden

This garden displays the best roses for growing in the Chicago area. Three acres are dedicated to over 150 varieties, almost 5,000 roses chosen for their outstanding performance, hardiness and disease resistance. Dedicated August 15, 1985, the Krasberg Rose Garden was made possible by the support of Bruce Krasberg, a Chicago Horticultural Society board member and longtime rosarian.

The Collections

The Rose Garden contains all types of roses, such as historic roses, hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures, grandifloras, shrub roses, climbers and pillar roses.

These roses are chosen not only for their beautiful blossoms but also for their scent, low maintenance, historic value and continuous bloom. Also considered are ornamental features such as colorful thorns, hips, stems and foliage.

The varieties of roses in this garden have changed over time and will continue to change as new roses that are more cold-hardy, more disease-resistant and more beautiful are created.

DESIGN

The Rose Garden is not just a collection of roses, but a garden in which these elegant flowers are incorporated into the landscape. This garden is graced with informal curving lines and a myriad of shrubs, trees, perennials and ground covers that have seasonal interest even when roses are not at their peak.

The roses themselves are arranged so that pale colors can be seen nearer the fountain and darker shades toward the main entrance.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Rose Petal Fountain

The focal point of the Rose Garden is a cast concrete fountain in the shape of a Tudor rose. From the center of the rose, streams of water shoot up in varying shapes and heights.

Cedar Arbor

At the northeast corner of the Rose Garden, you'll find a shady cedar arbor that provides a pleasant place to sit and enjoy the fragrance and beauty. The arbor is adorned with climbing roses, flowering clematis and baskets of shade-tolerant plants.

Old-Fashioned Rose Walk

The pathway directly behind the cedar arbor is lined with both old-fashioned roses and new English varieties bred to keep the old-fashioned look with repeat flowering.

History of Roses Bed

This area presents a brief living history of rose cultivation, from old garden roses through modern roses. The latest All-America Rose Selections (AARS) winners can also be found growing here. The Chicago Botanic Garden contributes to the selection of AARS winners by evaluating nominated roses in our Lavin Plant Evaluation Garden.

ROSE CULTURE

Roses do best in the Chicago area if they are given well-drained soil, plenty of sun, consistent moisture and good air circulation.

In addition, a pest management program is often necessary with any collection of roses that contains types other than resistant shrub roses. The Garden maintains an integrated pest management program that emphasizes natural controls and minimal spraying. Please contact Plant Information, located at Gateway Center, for the latest natural methods for controlling rose problems.

ROSE CLASSIFICATION

Here are a few standards from which you can determine the form and size of a rose.

Hybrid Tea Roses

The introduction of hybrid tea roses in 1867 began what we consider modern rose growing. These roses have large, rounded flowers with a multitude of petals and elegant, long stems. Some are strongly scented, while others are appreciated strictly for their beauty.

Floribunda Roses

Floribunda roses were created as a result of a hybrid cross between an old-fashioned polyantha and a hybrid tea. They are short and full with clusters of flowers.

Grandiflora Roses

Grandiflora roses have clusters of flowers like a floribunda, but the flowers are larger. They can be tall, as high as 5 feet, and the blossoms have long stems like hybrid teas.

Shrub or Landscape Roses

The label "shrub" or "landscape" is often used as a catchall for roses that do not fit any other category. Shrub roses include eglantine, hybrid rugosa, polyantha, landscape and hybrid shrub roses. Most are hardy enough not to require winter protection in the Chicago climate.

Miniature Roses

Miniatures have delicate, tiny clusters of roses. They come in shrub, cascading and climbing forms and are ideal plants for containers.

Climbing Roses

Climbing or rambling roses are named for their form and shape. They typically have very long stems, perfect for growing on trellises. Although some roses are grown specifically to be climbers, any type of rose with long stems can be grown on a trellis or pillar.

Old Garden Roses

This class contains roses that have been in cultivation since before 1867, such as the Bourbon, centifolia, China, damask, gallica and moss roses.

Species Roses

Species roses are found in the wild and have not been hybridized, or crossbred. Some examples are the prairie rose, Carolina rose, Father Hugo rose and rugosa rose.

TO LEARN MORE

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Book of Roses*. New York: Random House, 1988.

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New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1995.

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CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

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The Chicago Botanic Garden is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

ROSE GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

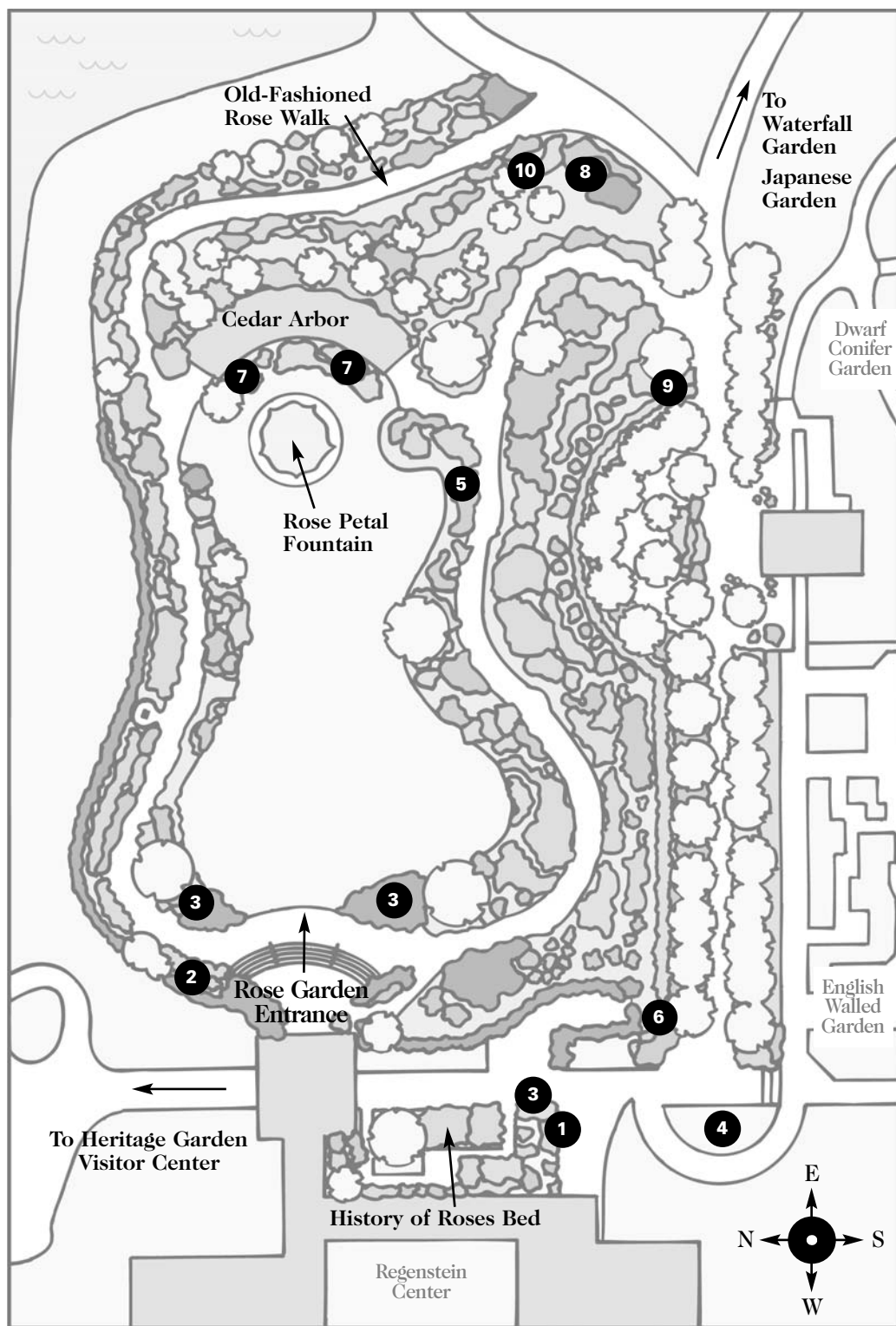
Look for these low-maintenance, hardy, disease-resistant roses in the Rose Garden.

- 1** *Rosa* 'Carefree Beauty'
A shrub rose that makes a great hedge, this rose has fragrant blossoms with rose-pink petals.
- 2** *Rosa* 'Crimson Glory'
A classic and popular hybrid tea rose, Crimson Glory has blossoms with deep, velvety, crimson petals and an intense fragrance. It is a good climber too.
- 3** *Rosa* 'Europeana'
This floribunda has dark-crimson, cupped blooms. It is upright with large clusters of faintly fragrant blooms.
- 4** *Rosa* 'The Fairy'
This low-growing rose has clusters of medium pink blossoms that bloom later in the season.
- 5** *Rosa* 'Golden Wings'
Often the earliest rose to bloom, Golden Wings continues to bloom throughout the season. Its light-yellow blossoms open wide.
- 6** *Rosa* 'Meicoubian'
This shrub rose can be grown as a ground cover. It has cupped, white blossoms that grow in clusters.
- 7** *Rosa* 'Nevada'
This shrub rose, one of the first roses to bloom in the garden, features red, arching canes—good for winter interest—and white, saucer-shaped blossoms.
- 8** *Rosa* 'Rose de Rescht'
This old garden rose has full, deep-pink blossoms that are very fragrant.
- 9** *Rosa rugosa* 'Alba'
This species rose features blossoms with only five to 12 petals, clove fragrance and orange-red hips.
- 10** *Rosa rugosa* 'Belle Poitevine'
This big, billowy shrub rose is almost always in bloom with medium pink blossoms.

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Rose Garden