

YOUR GARDEN

Growing Your First Rose Garden

(NAPSA)—Millions of people send roses to loved ones on special occasions. But when dinner-table talk turns to growing your own roses, one thing comes to mind—you consider running away because you've heard it's just too difficult.

"Growing roses has gotten a bad rap over the years because homeowners are basing their opinion on old information," says Bayer Advanced™ Rose Care Expert Lance Walheim, author of "Roses for Dummies." "There are new roses and products that make it easy to grow Rose Parade-quality roses in your own backyard."

Landscape roses like "Knock-out" can make the front of your home stand out and add curb appeal in a competitive real estate market. Knockout roses are the best-selling roses in North America because they're beautiful and easy to grow and come in a wide variety of colors that can fit into any landscape.

Here are a few tips to help make your first rose garden a success:

Pick a sunny spot to give you the most bang for the buck: Roses should be positioned to create the "wow" factor when visitors see your home. They require 6–8 hours of sunlight a day to grow big and healthy.

The melted-box-of-crayon look is out: It's best to choose a color theme for a border, either with the same color rose or with colors that complement each other.

Mulch and water around the roots: Mulch keeps weeds out



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and roses moist. Water deeply around the roots once or twice a week during dry spells. Stick a finger in the soil to check for moisture. If your finger comes out dry, it's time to add water.

Save money on rose care products: Roses need to be fed and protected against destructive diseases and insects. In most cases, that means buying three different products. One money-saving option, Bayer Advanced All-in-One Rose & Flower Care, provides all three solutions in one easy-to-use product. Just measure, mix with water and pour around the plant base every six weeks. It's tested and endorsed by the American Rose Society. Always read and follow all label directions. (Product not registered on Long Island, N.Y.) For more gardening information and how-to videos, visit BayerAdvanced.com or call (877) BAYERAG.