

# Your Garden

## Eco-Friendly Rose Bushes

(NAPSA)—Beloved since antiquity, the sweet fragrance, bright color and showy flowers of the rose have inspired poets, painters and gardeners alike. Even the notoriously thorny stems have always been accepted as nothing more than a minor inconvenience, a small sacrifice for such beauty. In the past few decades, however, the rose's requirements of careful pruning, frequent pesticide applications and liberal amounts of fertilizer may have dampened some gardeners' enthusiasm for this "queen" of all flowers.

Fortunately, rose breeders sensed the growing dissatisfaction and were ready with something totally new: landscape roses. Unlike the more familiar high-maintenance types, these hardy, vigorous roses shrug off disease, don't require pruning or dead-heading and are adaptable to all types of climates and soil. Extremely easy to grow, landscape roses make showy specimen plants and combine readily with other shrubs as well. Landscape roses are available in an array of gorgeous, can't-pick-just-one flower colors. And here's what may be the best part: They bloom for months instead of weeks, covering the plant with color from the first early summer blossoms until a hard frost.

Landscape roses from Proven Winners come in two distinct groups, each with its own characteristics. The Oso Easy series consists of several low-growing tidy varieties, ranging in height from just 1' up to 4' tall. It contains the hardest landscape roses available, with several varieties tolerating temperatures as cold as -35 degrees F. The colors range from



**You can now get roses that resist cold, disease and poor soil...and even grow with no thorns.**

the deliciously delicate Peachy Cream to the luscious pink of Strawberry Crush. Bolder colors are found in Paprika, with rich orange and yellow petals, Cherry Pie, a saturated bright red, and the tropical orange-pink of Mango Salsa. The series is equally at home in decorative containers, perennial gardens or foundation plantings. You can plant several together for an unusual, fast-growing ground cover.

The Oso Happy series is characterized by plants that bear clusters of small but numerous flowers. Oso Happy Petit Pink is an American Rose Society award winner and is a mass of small, pure pink, petal-packed flowers all summer long.

The newest addition to the series, Smoothie, is a thornless rose. Its unique magenta and white flowers are borne atop completely smooth stems, making it fun for flower arranging and extra safe around children and pets. You can try roses in perennial beds, mixed with other shrubs or for an unexpected informal flowering hedge.

Landscape roses should be planted where they get at least six hours of unobstructed sunlight each day. In warm places, however, a bit of afternoon shade makes flowers last longer. Because the plants are so disease resistant, they'll never require spraying. Their growth habit is much more compact than that of traditional varieties, eliminating the need for pruning. However, a light trim in early spring along with an application of granular fertilizer encourages new growth and more flowers all summer long.

The extreme disease resistance and nearly nonstop floral display of these plants often means that the flowers have little of the classic rose fragrance. However, when paired with other fragrant plants, such as Bloomerang reblooming lilac, phlox or sweet autumn clematis, the result is a more colorful, flower-filled garden that can be the envy of the neighborhood.

For more information about landscape roses and reblooming lilac, visit [www.provenwinners.com](http://www.provenwinners.com).