



hen you visit the Lyndhurst Rose Garden, you'll see a profusion of roses of different kinds, colors and sizes. These beautiful plants are the result of hard work by the Lyndhurst staff, by Mr. Lou Zapata, owner of Hartsdale Garden Design, and by other Garden Club of Irvington members, for which the Rose Garden has been a principal project. Lou and his crew lead the effort in choosing new roses, planting, and pruning and caring for them for them throughout the season. "Roses are rich in heritage and lore, and of course they are one of the most beautiful plants in the garden," Lou says. He graciously provided this introduction to guide you on your visit.

Among the popular types of modern roses in the Lyndhurst Rose Garden are:

Hybrid Tea roses have large-flowered, fragrant, showy blooms and come in a diverse range of colors. They are distinguished by long, strong stems, which make them great cut flowers. The form of a hybrid tea rose is tall and upright, with sparse foliage toward the base. The blooms develop singly on long stems, and the buds are often as elegant as the open blooms; most roses at florist shops are hybrid tea varieties. Hybrid teas must be pruned while still dormant in early spring to ensure good air circulation and development of vigorous, healthy canes. If planted in a sunny location with well-drained, fertile soil and frequent feedings, they will reward you many times over.

Floribunda roses offer a bouquet on every branch. The small flowers look like elegant hybrid tea blooms, but they appear in clusters instead of one flower per stem. They are hardy and free flowering. These hardy roses range from compact and low-growing to heights of five to six feet, ideal for tall hedges. The foliage on Floribundas tends to shrug off disease, making for a low-maintenance rose with maximum impact and continuous bloom.



Above: On Rose Day, Lou Zapata demonstrates techniques and answers visitors' questions. Above right: Photo of hybrid tea roses by Garden Club member Edna Kornberg.

continued from front page

Grandiflora roses blend the best traits of hybrid teas and Floribundas. They are hardy, disease-resistant, and produce the same elegantly shaped blooms as hybrid teas, but in profuse, long-stemmed clusters of smaller blooms that continually repeat. Because of their size—up to seven feet tall—Grandifloras make great hedges and flower-border backgrounds.

ROSE PRUNING BASICS

by Mary Morrisett

"The more a rose plant is pruned, the stronger will be the shoots that result from this apparently murderous treatment," wrote Gertrude Jekyll. Strange but true. In spring, the root system has a given amount of energy and ability to take water and nutrients from the soil; the more bush you leave unpruned, the less energy is available for new growth. For the complete, illustrated text of this article by long-time GCI member and rose expert Mary Morrisett, go to [gcirvington.org/Horticulture Tips](http://gcirvington.org/Horticulture_Tips).

Knockout® roses, introduced in 2000, are hardy, drought-tolerant, easy to grow, and don't require special care. With nonstop blooms all season, they can be planted individually or in mixed borders among shrubs and annuals and perennials. Planted in large groups, they can create a colorful hedge or bright border. For the best performance, they need to be cut back in spring every year after the last threat of frost.

Climbing roses. Because they don't have tendrils like vines, rose bushes don't actually climb; they throw out long canes that can be trained along a support such as a trellis, arch, fence, arbor, or gazebo. Loose anchoring to a support encourages young plants to climb.

Many climbing roses offer a profusion of color all summer. They develop large, single flowers or clustered blooms on a stem. Climbers may bloom once a season or continually, depending on the variety.

Enjoy the roses in the Lyndhurst Rose Garden—and in your own garden!

Lou's Tips

- 🌹 Roses yield the best results when planted in deep, rich soil in a location that provides six hours or more of full sun per day.
- 🌹 When you plant, dig a deep hole. Fill it with a mixture of two-thirds soil you removed and one-third rich organic matter like garden compost.
- 🌹 Remove all weeds around the newly planted rosebush. Apply mulch two inches deep. Lou recommends Sweet Peat (available at River Rock Supply in Sleepy Hollow) or buckwheat hulls.
- 🌹 Keep roses well watered. The preferred method of watering is deep irrigation with soaker hoses.
- 🌹 Prune roses back in early spring (see article at left + gcirvington.org).
- 🌹 Remove spent flowers throughout the growing season.
- 🌹 Spray against disease and pests as needed; every two weeks with horticultural oil spray is recommended.
- 🌹 Feed monthly with Rose-Tone.
- 🌹 In the early evenings, pour yourself your favorite beverage, sit back, and enjoy your roses.

