

Recommended Cultivars

Here are a few of the cultivars that are suitable for Iowa gardens. (Dates indicate when plant was introduced. Ratings are from the American Rose Society and the All-America Rose Selections after a 3-year evaluation and are based on a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being best.)

Orange/Apricot/Coral

Starina (1965) 8.3
Jean Kenneally (1984) 9.1
Pierrine (1988) 9.0
Best Friends (2002) 7.4

Pink and Pink Blend

Minnie Pearl (1982) 9.0
Tiffany Lynn (1985) 8.1*
Giggles (1987) 8.8
Figurine (1991) 8.0
Kristen (1992) 8.1
Baby Boomer (2001) 7.7

Red and Red Blends

Black Jade (1985) 8.0
Chelsea Belle (1991) 8.0
Glowing Amber (1997) 8.0
Ruby Baby (2001) 7.8
This Is the Day (2003) 7.7
Memphis King (2002) 7.7

White

Pacesetter (1979) 8.1
Snow Bride (1982) 8.5
Irresistible (1989) 9.0
Cachet (1997) 7.8*

Yellow and Yellow Blends

Rise 'n' Shine (1986) 8.4
Fairhope (1989) 8.2
Conundrum (2002) 7.7*
Autumn Splendor (1999) 8.1*
Bee's Knees (1998) 8.0

Mauve

Winsome (1984) 8.2
Purple Dawn (1991) 7.6*
Scentsational (1995) 7.6

*Mini-Flora; Source: 2007 *American Rose Society Handbook for Selecting Roses*. (Copies available from ARS.)

Information and Plant Sources

All-America Rose Selections
388 Market St., Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94111
www.rose.org

American Rose Society
P.O. Box 30,000
Shreveport, LA 71130-0030
www.ars.org

Nor'East Miniature Roses
P.O. Box 520, Arroyo Grande, CA 93421
www.noreast-miniroses.com

ISU Extension Publications—
www.extension.iastate.edu/store

ISU Horticulture—
www.yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu

Reiman Gardens—
www.reimangardens.iastate.edu

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... and justice for all

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GARDENS
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Miniature Roses



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University Extension

Miniature roses (*Rosa chinensis* 'Minima') have dime- to quarter-size flowers in single, double, and semi-double form. They are available in almost every color in the rainbow, except blue. Flowers can be pressed or dried for use in arrangements and potpourri.

Several hundred cultivars are available, ranging in size from 3 to 18 inches in height and spread. The smallest varieties ("micro-minis") grow to 6 inches or less.

Mini-Flora roses are a new classification of the American Rose Society. The bloom, foliage, and plant size are larger than a miniature and smaller than a floribunda. Plants typically reach heights of 3 feet and are suitable for larger beds or borders.

Miniature roses are ideal for container culture, and are popular flowering gifts that can brighten indoor spaces. Because of the amount of light needed, however, they usually perform best when planted outdoors.

Care Indoors

Potted miniature roses from florists or garden centers need at least 5 to 6 hours of direct sun from south- or west-facing windows for growth and flowering. Rotate the pots once or twice a week to encourage balanced growth.

Miniature roses also need consistent moisture. When the top inch of soil is dry to the touch, thoroughly soak the plants until the water flows freely out of the bottom of the container. Discard the excess water.

Regular applications (once or twice per month) of a complete fertilizer are needed when plants are flowering. Soluble or slow release fertilizers can be used, however, excessive fertilizer encourages rampant growth and inhibits flowering.

Roses prefer warm locations that have a daytime temperature around 70° F and a nighttime minimum of 60° F. Flowering is reduced if temperatures drop below 50° F. Keep plants away from cold drafts or heat sources.

Care Outdoors

Potted miniature roses are colorful additions to sunny patios and decks. Acclimate container plants to outdoor conditions by initially placing them in a shady location in May. Gradually expose the plants to longer periods of sunlight. After 7 to 10 days, the roses can be left in their summer locations.

Pest Control

Regardless of where they are planted, miniature roses need to be regularly monitored for pests.

Spider mites—Roses may have problems with spider mites while indoors, and also outdoors during hot, dry weather. The first sign is a lightening of the lower foliage as the mites suck sap. Discolored leaves and fine webbing are indications that spider mites may be present. To check for mites, shake leaves over a piece of white paper. Mites will be seen as small moving colored dots.

Spider mites can be controlled by spraying the plant 3 or 4 times a week with a forceful spray of water. A soapy water solution (1 tablespoon liquid dishwashing soap to 1 quart water) also can be used to control mites. Follow with a warm water rinse.

Aphids—These tiny green or black flying insects may be a problem on roses in the spring and fall. They also can be washed off the plant with a water spray.

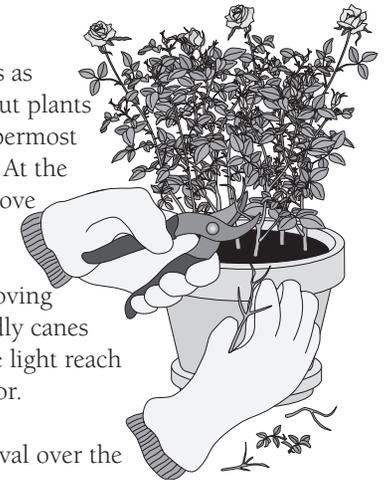
Keep container plants well watered and fertilize frequently. Bring plants indoors before a hard frost in fall, or plant the roses in the ground.

Miniatures are hardier than hybrid tea roses and many gardeners prefer to plant them directly in the ground. Plants perform best in a sunny location with rich, well-drained soils. Place plants near the edge of beds or borders for best viewing of their flowers. Most miniature roses can be spaced about 12 inches apart. As surrounding plants grow, make sure they don't shade the miniature roses.

Regular maintenance is required for repeated blooms. Deep watering (1 to 2 inches per week) encourages root development and mulching helps conserve soil moisture. Ground-planted miniature roses benefit from fertilizing in early spring, when they start to bloom, and at their peak of bloom. No fertilizer should be added after mid to late August to help plants prepare for dormancy.

Pruning—

Remove flowers as they fade and cut plants back to the uppermost five-leaflet leaf. At the same time, remove any yellowing leaves or dead branches. Removing weak and spindly canes also helps more light reach the plant interior.



To ensure survival over the winter, partially cover miniature roses in late fall. Place soil at the base of the plant, followed by a covering of leaves. Plants can be smothered if they are covered completely. Uncover plants in late spring.