

Growing Roses Sustainably

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What is a Sustainable Rose?

- A sustainable rose is grown without chemical intervention and in the most earth-friendly way. I will use organics first and only resort to chemical fungicides if necessary.
- Sustainable gardening also works in harmony with nature so not to deplete resources faster than they can be replaced. Such as water and soil.
- Only organic pesticides are used in my garden. I like to attract beneficial insects such as ladybugs. I feed the birds which will eat insects as well. A firm spray of water works wonders on aphids and spider mites. Companion plants work as well to deter bad insects.

About Earth-Kind Roses

- National Earth-Kind Rose Research Study began in the 1990's
- Experimental roses received
 - No soil amendments
 - No fertilizer
 - Never sprayed with any chemical
 - Never deadheaded
 - Never pruned (except in cases where the plant was growing into another rose)
- A 3" layer of mulch was maintained year-round
- Once established, the plants will receive 70% less water applied through irrigation
- There were 15 cultivars that made the list from the first trials.

Growing Tips for Sustainable Roses

• **Planting Site**

- Plant in a location that gets 6-8 hours of sun per day
- Choose a location that provides good air flow. Do not plant too close to one another.
- When it is fully grown, there should remain at least one foot of open space between them. Air flow is important to reduce foliar diseases.

- **Bed Preparation**

- Roses do better if the soil is aerated (air in the soil), has good drainage and has water holding characteristics
- Add rotted manure, mushroom compost, worm castings or any organic matter to the planting site and work it into the soil
- Check pH and adjust accordingly. Roses do best in a pH range of 6.0-6.5. Too low (acidic) add lime, too high (alkaline) add sulfur.
- A 3" layer of mulch after planting is a must

- **Maintenance**

- Water thoroughly whenever the soil is dry. Water deeply not frequently
- Roses should not be sprinkler irrigated during evening hours. Keeping the foliage dry is best late in the day
- Prune in early Spring. Keep dead and dying branches removed.
- Keep roses clean. Remove any yellowing leaves and keep all leaves picked up around the bottom. With HT and Gr I keep the branches cut 8"-12" off the ground, this keeps the water from splashing up on the leaves

- # Fertilizing

- When I prune in the Spring and in July I will add

- Mill's Magic Rose Mix

- Alfalfa Meal, Blood Meal, Fermented Citrus Peels, Cottonseed Meal, Feather Meal, Bone Meal, Sulfate of Potash-Magnesia. NPK analysis is 6-5-1

- Mill's Easy Feed

- It provides both organic and non-organic nutrients to your plants. It is a combination of Epsom Salts, sequestrate chelated iron, soluble seaweed extract, fish soluble, urea and other fertilizers suspended in water.

- Bloomkote

- a controlled-release fertilizer especially formulated for roses and other blooming plants. BloomKote provides a multi-layer poly coating of basic plant nutrients with the added benefits of balanced trace elements and iron. 16-18-14

- **Choosing the Right Rose**
- Do your homework first. Use the ARS Handbook for Selecting Roses to get the roses' rating. Choose cultivars with a high rating. I try and choose ratings of 7.8 and above.
- Check with Society members to see what they have grown successfully.
- Check with the ARS magazine or website for the American Garden Rose Selections

- **American Garden Rose Selections**
- Roses grown in trial gardens across the country
- 2 years testing
- Evaluated three times per growing season
- Graded for
 - Disease resistance
 - Flowering effect/bloom abundance
 - Bloom and foliage form and attractiveness
 - Fragrance
 - Rebloom habit
 - Hardiness in cold and hot climates
 - Vigor and plant habit

Brindabell Pink Princess & Petite Knock Out



Winners this year for the Southeast



- **OSO Easy Urban Legend**

- **Award of Excellence**

- Established in 1973 for Miniature and Miniflora roses
- Since 2013 roses may be entered in a “no spray” or a “preventive spray” division
- Roses which have been in commerce less than a year, seedlings and sports are eligible
- Two-to-three-year testing in seven public and two private gardens across the country
- This year's winners are

- 2023 Winners

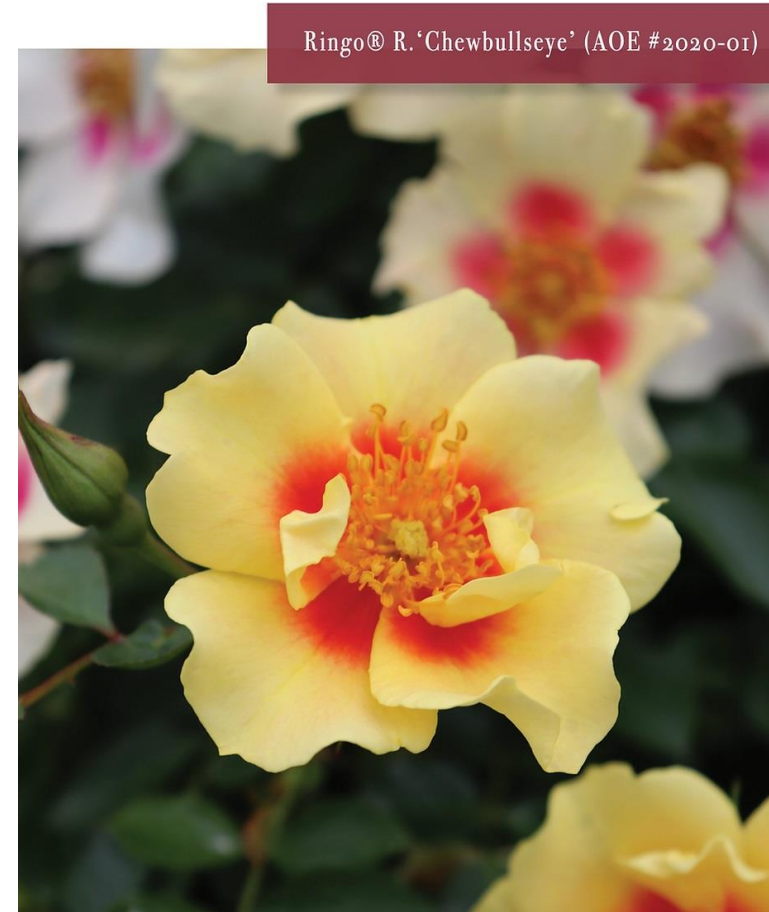


'Baby Dainty Bess' (AOE #2020-03)



'Life's Little Pleasures™' (AOE #2020-12)

- 2023 Winners



- Find Out More

- www.americangardenroseselections.com

- www.rose.org search Award of Excellence

- tenarky.org/Roses_in_Review.htm

- aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/

- www.kordes.us

- Suggested Books

- Everyday Roses by Paul Zimmerman

- The Sustainable Rose Garden Edited by Pat Shanley, Peter Kukielski and Gene Wearing

- Roses without Chemicals by Peter Kukielski