

MINIATURE ROSE PLANTS

Miniature roses are perfect replicas of modern hybrid tea and floribunda roses, but they are considerably smaller. They are fun and easy to grow, while providing nearly constant color. They are hardier than hybrid teas, yet require less care. A very long blooming season makes them a desirable plant for any yard. Grow them outdoors as border and bedding plants or in containers or window boxes.

When choosing a miniature rose remember that miniature sometimes just refers to the flower size and not necessarily the plant size. While some miniature rose plants only reach a height of 6-inches, some grow taller than 3-feet. Most miniatures are 12 to 24-inches tall and just as wide.

Pruning Miniature Roses

Miniature bushes: These roses are not as fussy about pruning as are hybrid teas. Start by removing all leaves so that it is easier to see the branching. Prune out dead, diseased, and old canes and extremely twiggy growth. Remove about 1/2 of the year's growth or just prune to the size and shape desired. If your bush grows too high for the area in which it was planted, then prune more heavily. If any sucker growth is around the base of the plant, it is best to try and dig it out from the roots, or pull as you would a weed. This is sometimes difficult due to thorns.

Miniature climbers: After planting a miniature rose climber do not prune for the first two to three years. They will need to be trained on a trellis like their bigger climbing cousins. Follow pruning directions outlined under climbing roses.