



How to read the plant labels

Roses in Adelaide Botanic Garden’s International Rose Garden are labeled to identify each specific rose and provide more information.

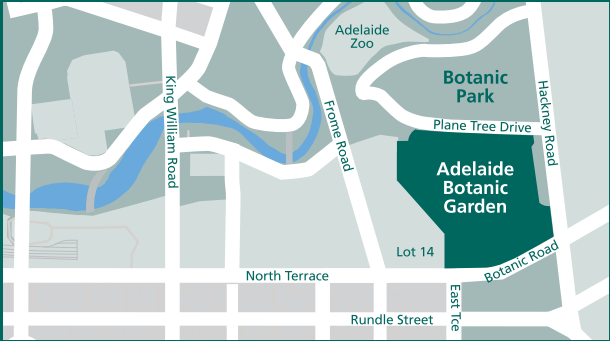
Large italic text indicates the registered ‘cultivar name’ of the rose in Australia.

The code underneath the cultivar name has letters and numbers. The capital letters denote the breeder’s name, while the lower-case letters and numbers represent the cultivar’s code.

Label information on the lower right hand side of the label indicates the rose group this particular rose belongs to.

Text in the lower left of each label indicates the year and country the rose cultivar originates from.

The top right hand side of the label may have one, two or three stars. Stars represent the rose’s fragrance: the more stars, the stronger the fragrance.



Plan your visit

Entrances (see map inside)

North Terrace, Plane Tree Drive, Hackney Road and Frome Road.

Parking

Ticketed car parking is available on Plane Tree Drive, and the State Herbarium carpark using credit card operated vending machines.

Public transport

Take a bus or the free city tram to the Botanic Gardens stop. Visit adelaidemetro.com.au

Accessibility

Adelaide Botanic Garden is wheelchair accessible through all gates except the Hackney Gate. Bitumen paths run throughout the garden.

Accessible toilets are located across the Garden, including a Changing Places (A4) facility off Plane Tree Drive. Wheelchairs are available for free hire if booked in advance. Please contact us for more accessibility information.

Want to see more?

Explore our Mount Lofty Botanic Garden in the Adelaide Hills, and Wittunga Botanic Garden in Blackwood too!

Contact us

Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium

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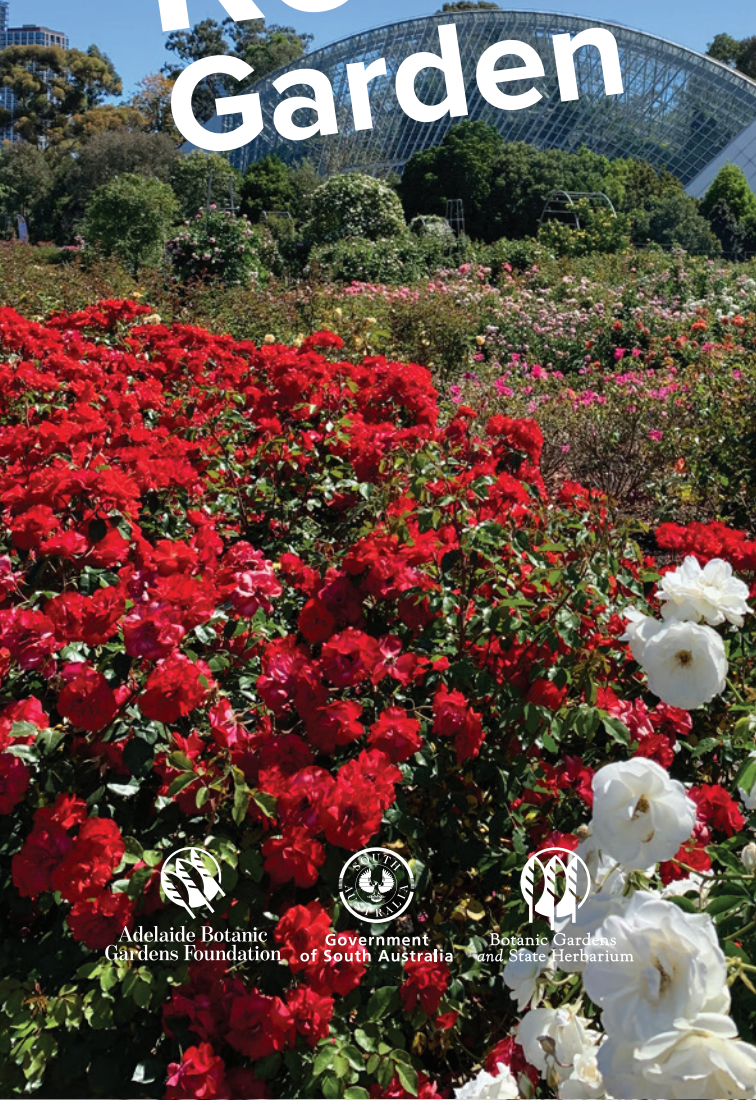
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Adelaide International Rose Garden



Welcome

The International Rose Garden features over 2,700 roses, showing more than 350 rose cultivars. This rose garden sits on Kaurna Country.

The International Rose Garden opened to the public in October 2000 and welcomes over 700,000 visitors per year. Australian and overseas bred roses are presented in several landscape styles, set amongst green lawns and colourful annual displays.

The National Rose Trial Garden of Australia is also contained within the rose garden. There you will be able to see roses not yet commercially released in Australia.

The garden is actively maintained by the horticultural staff of the Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium, with the generous assistance of volunteers and donors, and we thank them for their contributions of time, materials and expertise.

We invite you to use the gardens to inspire your own gardening, to learn about roses, or to simply delight in the beauty of this garden and its plants.

Enjoy your visit!

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Kaurna people as the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We recognize and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with this land.

Developing the Rose Collection

From its conception, the International Rose Garden has received significant support and advice from Australian rose experts on plant selection and care.

Several rose nurseries have donated thousands of rose plants. The garden has also greatly benefited from a high-quality mulch, together with the application of both pelletised and liquid fertiliser, generously provided by Neutrog, to ensure the roses receive the necessary nutrients to thrive.

Recently, with support from donors to the Adelaide Botanic Gardens Foundation, new rose varieties, border edging, plant identification labels, interpretive signage, irrigation and a fertigator (used to apply fertiliser) have been installed in the garden.

Rose Breeding

Rose breeding involves both science and art. Modern roses are genetically complex and it is difficult to predict the characteristics of the ‘offspring’ of rose parents. Breeders focus on carefully selected parent plants to seek out desired characteristics.

Most rose breeding occurs in the northern hemisphere. Breeding new rose cultivars can take from seven to nine years of trials for roses to reach the required standard for release. Sometimes only one in 100,000 seedlings reach this standard.

In Australia, most new roses are planted and trialled in the National Rose Trial Garden in Adelaide Botanic Garden for two years to ensure their suitability to Australian climates prior to commercial release.

The Rose Family

Roses are members of the plant family Rosaceae. It is one of the major plant families, with more than 90 genera containing more than 4,800 species.

While the taxonomy of Rosaceae is somewhat contentious, the family is usually divided into four subfamilies based primarily on fruit type.

There are many other important plant categories which belong to this same Rosaceae family, such as:

- *Malus* (apple)
- *Pyrus* (pear)
- *Prunus* (peach, apricots, plums, cherry and almonds)
- *Fragaria* (strawberry)
- *Rubus* (blackberry and raspberry)
- *Cydonia* (quince)

Other flowering ornamental plants of the Rosaceae family used in gardening world-wide includes Cotoneaster and Hawthorn.

Where did the rose come from?

The genus *Rosa* originated in the Northern Hemisphere. Roses naturally occur in North America, Europe and Asia.

Many plants that were called ‘roses’ in ancient text were not ‘true’ roses (from the genus *Rosa*), but other flowering plants. Grecian and Chinese history references the first mention of ‘true’ roses.

The birth of roses as we know them today began with four perpetually flowering stud roses, which were brought from China to Europe.

Empress Joséphine Bonaparte was one of the first people to give roses high status. A patron of art, Joséphine worked closely with sculptors, painters and interior decorators to incorporate rose art and decor at the Château de Malmaison. This Château, her home, was noted for its rose garden.



- A** National Rose Trial Garden
- B** Floribunda, Modern Shrub and Hybrid Tea
- C** Climbing
- D** Old Fashioned and Heritage
- E** Tea Rose
- F** Landscape
- G** Australian Bred Roses

Floribunda

Second only to the Hybrid Tea in popularity, Floribunda roses bear flowers in large clusters on one stem, providing massive, colourful, long-lasting garden displays. As a class, they are hardier and easier to care for than their hybrid tea counterparts. They range from low growing varieties of 50cm high, but average at 1.2m. Well suited for mass plantings, in pots or to form colourful borders and low hedges.

Climbing

Climbers can be used in a multitude of situations, limited only by your imagination. For best results espalier the long canes into a horizontal position to promote lateral growth. Do not over prune for the first two seasons and then only to remove dead wood and unproductive growth. Climbers flower best from one year old canes.

Roses within the Adelaide International Rose Garden

There are many different types of roses in the International Rose Garden. These include:

Old Fashioned and Heritage

Heritage Roses are any variety 75 years old or older. They are often sought after for their amazing variety, foliage and rosehips (fruit) which are complemented by the wide diversity of blooms. The majority have exquisite fragrance. They often grow vigorously and can be found in old homesteads and cemeteries, often still thriving despite decades of total neglect.

Hybrid Tea

Hybrid Tea roses have been the most recognisable class of rose for more than a hundred years. Today there are more than 10,000 hybrid tea roses. They bear classic full flowers with either a single flower or several to a stem. There can be as many as 30 to 50 petals per flower. Many have a good fragrance and are excellent for cut flowers. Height ranges from 1m to 2m but averages 1.5m tall.

Modern Shrub

Modern Shrub Roses are the ideal choice where a mass of colour is desired. Vigorous and hardy, they can create colourful hedges and borders. Many of the taller varieties can be used as small climbers or pillars. Hedges can be planted slightly closer together.

Polyantha

There are numerous dwarf hybrid roses which are characterised by many large clusters of small flowers.

Tea Rose

Tea roses originated in China several centuries back and the name is derived from the fact that the scent of the flowers reminded people of the smell of brewing tea.

Landscape

Landscape Roses are selected from a variety of classes, based on their ease of care. Landscape Roses are disease-resistant, require little pruning, grow quickly to fill a space and provide a long seasonal show of colour. Most Landscape Roses are grown on their own roots.

Miniature

These are the smallest of the roses with flowers that are usually less than 5cm across. Generally the bushes grow to no more than 50cm in height. Ideal for borders, pots or small gardens.

Australian Bred Roses

Roses bred in Australia for Australian Climates.



The Fragrant Roses

One of the main reasons the rose is considered the most popular flower in the world is their distinctive fragrance. Fragrance is a way to attract pollinators to ensure plants are fertilised and can produce seed contained in their fruits called rose hips.

Rose perfume is emitted by the petals, and hundreds of chemicals contribute to the scent of each rose.

Smell is an individual sense, so roses can smell differently to different people. There are five perfume characters noted in roses, and a fragrant rose will have at least three of the five different characters. Depending on which ones are present and their proportional amount, the result will be an individual scent, like a signature.

One of the best times to smell roses is early in the morning on a warm, sunny day.

Roses in the Arts

If there is a symbol that represents love, power, royalty and beauty, many would agree it is the rose. Sometimes referred to as “the queen of flowers”, the use of roses has been identified in cultures after 3,000 BCE. Folklore and history document many uses for roses and rose products, like rose oil, in everyday life and special cultural events and festivals.

Images of roses have featured in the art of ancient cultures, including the Greeks, Romans and Egyptians, and their use in art has continued to the present day. You can find them in works by some of the world’s best-known artists. Floral and porcelain artists, embroiderers and fabric makers also feature roses.

Countless myths, legends and children’s tales reference roses, such as the fairy-tale Briar Rose by The Brothers Grimm. Roses are often symbols of love, beauty and virtue in poetry, and there has been cultural significance in giving someone a certain colour or quantity of roses.

National Rose Trial Garden

The National Rose Trial Garden of Australia tests roses not yet commercially released in Australia. It is recognised as one of the best rose trial gardens in the world. So, in this area you have a unique opportunity to see new varieties of roses well before they would appear at garden outlets – as well as those that never make it to market.

The National Rose Trial Garden works to:

- identify and promote those roses best suited to Australian growing conditions.
- develop and promote Australian Rose Breeding.
- provide general information on roses to the public.
- provide feedback to rose breeders, growers and retailers about roses judged by the public to be the most popular.

People’s Choice

Every year the general public are invited to inspect the new cultivars growing in the National Rose Trial Garden and then to vote for their favourite roses. Volunteers are on hand to instruct the interested attendees in the process of judging roses.

This day is normally held towards the end of the growing season and is usually a weekend in early April. The winning rose cultivar is announced as part of the National Rose Trial Annual Awards that occur in October.

In recent years, it also coincides with the Rose Society of South Australia’s annual Autumn Rose Show and a spectacular blooming time in any healthy rose garden in Australia.

A team of dedicated rosarians contribute more than 1,200 hours of volunteer time to assist expert botanic garden staff to tend to this high maintenance garden. Events like People’s Choice bring together volunteers, botanic garden staff and horticultural industries.

Rose Garden Activities

Volunteers take on many roles in the International Rose Garden.

Over the past decade, thousands of volunteer hours have been provided during the growing season by members of the Rose Society of South Australia. Removing spent flowers (deadheading) and pruning of bushes is a mammoth task. The garden’s horticultural staff are only able to accomplish this task with help from volunteers.

The Garden Guides also lead guided walks through the rose garden, tell entertaining tales as visitors stroll through the garden and photograph the floriferous blooms.

Many functions are held within the International Rose Garden. Workshops are offered each year for the public to learn the art of rose pruning techniques and how to care for their roses to produce the best plants.

School groups undertake self-guided and guided walks. Elegant dinner parties, cocktail events and weddings are often held within the Rose Garden Pavilion positioned on the pristine lawn looking into the rose garden.

The Botanic Gardens and State Herbarium extends its sincere thanks to all our experts, Friends, donors and volunteers – we could not deliver this beautiful garden without them.