



My Drift

Title: Roses

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My wife loved roses. We had about 30 large pots around the pool with roses in them. She liked David Austin English Roses the best and ordered them online from someplace in Texas. She took care of them until she got too sick to do it and I took care of them until she died last year.





A few of the Roses we had in our yard

Now, a year or so later, all of the roses are dead and I'm in the process of getting rid of all those pots. I'm too old and lazy to take care of them any longer.

General

A rose is a woody perennial flowering plant of the genus *Rosa* in the family Rosaceae. There are over three hundred species. They form a group of plants that can be erect shrubs, climbing, or trailing, with stems that are often armed with sharp prickles. Their flowers vary in size and shape and are usually large and showy, in colors ranging from white through yellows and reds. Most species are native to Asia, with smaller numbers native to Europe, North America, and Northwest Africa. Species, cultivars and hybrids are all widely grown for their beauty and often are fragrant. Roses have acquired cultural significance in many societies. Rose plants range in size from compact, miniature roses to climbers that can reach seven meters in height. Different species hybridize easily, and this has been used in the development of the wide range of garden roses.

The sharp growths along a rose stem, though commonly called "thorns", are technically prickles, outgrowths of the epidermis (the outer layer of tissue of the stem), unlike true thorns, which are modified stems. Rose prickles are typically sickle-shaped hooks, which aid the rose in hanging onto other vegetation when growing over it. Some species such as *Rosa rugosa* have densely packed straight prickles, probably an adaptation to reduce browsing by animals, but also possibly an adaptation to trap wind-blown sand and so reduce erosion and protect their roots.



ROSE COLOR MEANINGS



love, romance



joy, gratitude, grace



friendship



purity, innocence



adoration, fascination



enthusiasm, passion



fertility, opulence



mystery, illusion



death



sincerity



splendor



unity

Did you know that the rose color has a meaning? I didn't!

Red:

Easily the most recognized color of rose, red roses mean beauty, desire, passion and romantic love.

Bright Pink:

Symbolizes gratitude, appreciation, happiness, joy, and admiration.

Yellow:

A popular rose representing friendship, yellow roses send feelings of joy, caring and cheer. They're a great choice as a gift of congratulation for a celebratory occasion, such as an engagement or the birth of a new baby.

White:

White roses are a symbol of innocence, purity and chastity. They're also often associated with spirituality and new beginnings. These roses are a perfect choice for weddings.

Purple:

Typically, purple roses represent enchantment or things of the mystical variety. However, pale purple roses can mean 'love at first sight', while darker shades of purple imply royalty, majesty, fascination and adoration.

Orange:

They're frequently used to show fascination, passion, enthusiasm, attraction and desire.

Green:

Soft, vibrant and carrying very strong feelings of nature, green roses are an amazing choice for spiritual occasions like confirmations or baptisms. They symbolize calm, fertility, peace and spiritual rejuvenation.

Blue:

While not found in nature, blue roses are still quite popular. Because they don't exist naturally, they've become a representation of the mysterious and the unattainable.

Black:

While not as positive as many other colors, black roses have still become a staple for representing death, rebirth or for saying goodbye. They're a risky choice as a gift, unless you're choosing to give them to the deceased. But who knows?

Pink:

Pink roses have possibly the widest range of emotions, which they can embody when given as a gift. Commonly, they're used to imply dignity, elegance, admiration, innocence, happiness, gentleness, grace, sweetness and gratitude.

**Lavender:**

Lavender roses symbolize enchantment, love at first sight, and adoration. They can also represent wonder, mystery, regality, and splendor.

Red and White:

Red and white roses can symbolize love, passion, purity, and unity.

Well, next time I send a dozen roses to my lawyer, I'm going to select pink instead of red.

Interesting Facts About Roses



Roses are possibly one of the oldest flowers

There are rose fossils that date back 35 million years. The oldest living rose is 1,000 years old, and it lives on the wall of the Cathedral of Hildesheim in Germany!

All varieties of roses are edible

Not only do they look beautiful climbing up a trellis or over an arch, but they can also be used in the kitchen. Rose petals are often added to jellies and used as a flavoring in Chinese and Indian cuisine. Your favorite tea or cocktail might even be infused with rose hips, a berry shaped fruit grown from roses which are packed with Vitamin C.

The national flower for England is a rose

The Tudor Rose refers to England's emblem of peace at the end of the War of the Roses, the civil war between the royal house of Lancashire, which wore a red rose, and the royal house of York, which wore a white rose.

The tallest rose bush stands at 5.6 meters high

Records show that the tallest rose bush stands at 5.6 meters high, that's 18.8 feet! This was achieved by Christopher Rose in the USA on the 8th of November 2017.

There are many different rose varieties

There are around 300 species of roses across the world, with thousands of hybrids. Cherries, apples, peaches, plums, pears, apricots, and almonds are all relatives of the rose family.

David Austin developed the most expensive rose - the Juliet Rose

It took 15 years and cost \$2.3 million. It was first displayed in 2006 at the Chelsea Flower Show. This iconic rose has a distinctive full cup with beautiful petals, whilst its color resembles an apricot.



Their scent comes from their microscopic glands

Rose petals have microscopic perfume glands on their lower petals, and these are responsible for producing their beautiful scent

54% of the land in Ecuador is filled with Roses

Ecuador is one of the world's largest suppliers of roses, with an astonishing 54% of the land filled with roses. There is natural light all year round providing the perfect climate for flowers to thrive with longer growing cycles.

Well, that's it for roses. I hope my wife up there in heaven is not too mad at me for killing her beloved roses!

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