

Roses and Fragrance

What's the first thing most people do when they are handed a rose?
They smell it.

- Fragrant roses have been cherished for ages
- Fragrance is one of the main motivations for growing roses
- Fragrant rosebushes placed under window, along walkways or near outdoor seating areas fill the area with a wonderful scent that compliments the beauty of the flower.
- If fragrance is your goal for potpourri or recipes, you need to chose from the most fragrant varieties available.
- Like other sensory stimuli, fragrance is highly subjective. A scent that appeals to one person may repel another and be barely perceptible to a third.
- A rose itself may have different degrees and types of fragrance at different times. Such as early morning, the heat of noon or early evening.
- A rose is most fragrant when it is one-quarter to two-thirds open and is slightly warmed by the morning sun. The heat causes the rose to release droplets of fragrant oil from tiny scent emitters on its petals. In some types of roses, from the leaves
- Too much sun or wind can carry these oils away and leave the rose with a faint or disagreeable odor.
- On a sunny day fragrance declines by as much as 40 percent.
- On cool or damp days, by contrast, a rose releases little or no fragrance and what fragrance is released may be masked by mildew.
- Not all roses are fragrant, and the classic "rose" rose scent is just one of a variety of fragrances, and occurs only in red or pink roses.
- However, for genetic reasons many red and pink roses are scentless.
- There are seven basic rose fragrances: rose, nasturtium, violet, apple lemon, clove and tea.
- White and yellow roses tend to have tea, nasturtium, violet or lemon scents.
- Orange roses usually smell of tea, nasturtium, violet, or clove.

- Eglanteria roses are roses descendents of rosa eglanteria, the 'sweet briar rose' and have an apple scent, which comes primarily from the leaves. They have a large, dense, thorny growth habit suitable for screening, and foliage that smell like apples, especially after watering or rain.