

## DISEASE RESISTANT ROSES IN SOUTHERN GARDENS



We live in the ‘*Black Spot*’ zone. Most hybrid tea/grandiflora roses, floribundas and miniature roses are prone to this disease, which makes rose growing a challenge in our region.

Roses are beloved for their form, fragrance, and color; moreover, they provide us with beauty and delight. What other plant will bloom for you from April through November?

Even more so, after the success of the **Knock Out™** series of rose, American rose hybridizers have been busy breeding for disease resistance in modern roses, but they are still a long way from creating fragrant, hybrid tea roses that are resistant to black spot (especially since there are three races of black spot in North America that can infect roses).

The ‘*right plant in the right place*’ philosophy must be diligently applied if you love roses and desire a no-spray garden. The following resources are available to help you find great roses for your garden:

Earth Kind roses — research done by Texas A&M University brought us these roses.

Go to <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/> to see what they did to those poor roses and why this is a good place to start. Visit: [www.chambleerose.com](http://www.chambleerose.com) — Chamblee’s Rose Nursery is the original source to purchase Earth-Kind Roses.

## THE “ROSE“ AMERICA’S NATIONAL FLOWER

We maintain a no-spray garden at the Red Cross.

THE ASHEVILLE BLUE RIDGE ROSE SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 8832 ASHEVILLE, N.C. 28814

The University of Tennessee Extension Service, (*with the USDA*) has been testing any roses with claims of disease resistance (*as advertised in wholesale rose catalogs*) Dr. Mark Windham is the professor in charge.

Many of the rose's bread by the late Dr. Griffith Buck from Iowa have good disease resistance and cold tolerance. Visit [www.Rosesunlimiteddownroot.com](http://www.Rosesunlimiteddownroot.com) and [www.chambleeroses.com](http://www.chambleeroses.com) for specific recommendations.

Paul Zimmerman (*former owner of Ashdown Roses in SC*) is champion of growing roses without chemicals. He touts that '**Roses are plants too**®'. His website is a wealth of information about growing roses organically, go to: [www.paulzimmermanroses.com](http://www.paulzimmermanroses.com). He likes the roses from *Biltmore House Gardens* — Check out his delightful book: **everyday Roses: how to grow Knock Out® and other easy-care garden roses.**

The All American Rose Selections organization no longer exists; however, it has been replaced with American Garden Rose Selections (AGRS) new roses are in trial and will be introduced in 2016. The last AARS 2013 winner is hybrid tea Francis Meiland.

Star Roses: the introducer of the **Knock Out**® roses, have also introduced the '*Drift*' Series of ground cover roses, which have excellent disease resistant. Go to [www.starroses.com](http://www.starroses.com). Star Roses is a wholesaler and does not sell to the public. Go to [www.helpmefind.com](http://www.helpmefind.com) and click on roses to find a specific rose.

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The New York Botanical garden has gone chemical free. Peter Kukielski, former curator of the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden, replaced the fungicide dependent hybrid teas and planted new disease resistant roses. Go to this website and learn more: <http://www.nybg.org/gardens/rose-garden/index.php>. Be sure to read the article posted on this site from 'The American Gardener' March/April 2011 issue.

The American Rose Society's magazine 'The American Rose' has articles in the May/June 2011 about additional EarthKind roses. There is also a column about growing roses organically know a 'Good Earth R.O.S.E.', website: [www.OrganicRoseCare.org](http://www.OrganicRoseCare.org). Go to [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org) and sign up for a four month membership for only \$10, a real bargain; only requirement is an email address.

Now all the information you need is at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access at home, all public libraries have internet access for folks who have a library card. Happy rose hunting! Adopt a rose!

Must Read: **The Sustainable Rose Garden** by Pat Stanley, Peter Kukielski & Gene Waering, and **Roses without Chemicals: 150 Disease-Free Varieties that will Change the Way You Grow Roses** by Peter Kukielski.

Compiled by **Sherree Wright**, American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian, and crazy about roses!

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