



## MINIATURE ROSES

Miniature roses are true roses with small flowers, canes and foliage. Micro-minis are only 6-8 inches tall. Others may grow to 30 inches and climbers can reach 5 feet. Miniatures can also be found as tree roses and trailing roses.

A new classification is called miniflora. These roses are too large to be miniatures but too small to be considered floribundas. Miniatures come in all colors and a variety of flower forms. Some are similar to hybrid teas or floribundas, while others have single-petal flowers.

Miniature roses originally came from China in the early 1800s. They gained some popularity and were known as fairy flowers. It wasn't until 1894 that they were given the name *Rosa chinensis minima*. Miniatures were not widely grown until the 1920s, when they were extensively hybridized and propagated. They have gained popularity as a charming addition to the garden.

### CULTURE

Miniature roses grow on their own roots, which makes them hardier than grafted roses. They have an extensive but shallow root system that requires careful water and mulching.

### PLANTING

- Just like other roses, miniatures require a minimum of 6 hours of sun.
- If soil doesn't drain well, work in a few inches of peat moss, compost or other organic material.
- Since miniatures have shallow roots, plant them a little deeper than they were planted in the original container. Gently spread out roots.
- Plant 12-18 inches apart, depending on variety.
- Water well and mulch after planting.

### WATER

Soil needs to be kept moist but not soggy. Avoid wetting foliage and don't water after 4:00 pm. This allows enough time for the foliage to dry before nightfall and helps prevent fungal diseases.

## **PRUNING**

In the spring before roses leaf out, prune off old, dead, diseased or crossing canes. Cut above and outside a bud above a five-leaflet leaf. Make cuts at an angle.

## **FERTILIZING**

After plants leaf out in the spring, apply a balanced fertilizer every three weeks until early August. After that time roses begin to prepare for dormancy. Remove mulch when applying fertilizer and water in well. There are many commercial fertilizers formulated specifically for roses. Apply at half the rate recommended for larger roses.

## **WINTER CARE**

Miniature roses do not need to have soil mounded over them, but may benefit from a covering of pine needles or straw. Most will survive without any protection.

## **MINIATURES IN CONTAINERS**

Minis are easily grown in pots, which provides the advantage of moving them to where color is needed. Pots should be at least 6 inches deep and 8 to 12 inches across. Miniatures should be dug into the ground (pot and all) during the winter or kept in the garage.