



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

“The Thorne Identity”

Years of physical abuse at the hands of roses had led me to a general state of ignorance regarding them, especially my old nemesis - the shrub, or landscape rose. However, beyond the ever-popular Knock Out rose, I've lately begun to notice the newer, groundcover types gaining in popularity and will admit to finally being curious about them.

Back to the Knock Out rose - this shrub set the standard for disease resistance and low maintenance when it came on to the market in 2000. Following that success, many other easy-to-grow roses began to trickle on to the scene as well. While there are too many shrub varieties to mention here, I'd like to concentrate on some of the (still) popular and newer groundcover roses we carry.



The Knock Out rose, by example of general size, would be considered a medium-height shrub, roughly 4-5' all around if left unpruned. Going down a couple of feet in height, the Flower Carpet collection is still going strong; especially the newer cultivars that have shown improved heat tolerance and disease resistance: Scarlet and Pink Supreme. While they are considered to be the “first” of the groundcover roses to gain popularity, they can still top out around 3' in height if not pruned.



The trend in gardening towards compact and easy-care plants is what brings us to these next two groups of shrub roses: Oso Easy and Drift. Defying the idea that spraying and pruning are needed for glossy foliage and regular flowers, both these collections have been bred for tough disease resistance, excellent winter hardiness and almost no maintenance. Oso Easy roses are considered to be a short shrub and come in a variety of colors that vary in height from 1-3' tall. Here at the nursery we have a sampling of 'Cherry Pie' and 'Peachy Cream'.

The Drift roses are a cross between the full-size groundcover rose and miniature roses.

They have a tight, compact habit and will reach just 1-2' tall by 2-3' wide. We have many colors of Drift roses to choose from. Best part? Both of these collections are repeat bloomers from spring to frost and a number of the cultivars can be used as patio container subjects.

Once the bandages and tweezers are handy... Happy planting!



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