

What is EARTH-KIND™?

EARTH-KIND™ (EK) is research proven practices that benefit our environment, landscapes and us! The pursuit of **EARTH-KIND™** practices will result in:

- Water Conservation
- Safe use of fertilizer and pesticides
- Reduction of landfill yard wastes.

National EARTH-KIND™ Rose Research

This rose research project, led by Texas A&M University, is a nation-wide project to identify roses that will grow with minimal input and without outstanding landscape performance. Our EK Rose Research Project is a joint project between Texas A&M, Texas Cooperative Extension, Permian Basin Master Gardeners and University of Texas of the Permian Basin for Energy and Economic Diversification.

Some recommended EK roses for WTX

- **Dwarf Shrub**
The Fairy - light pink, double blossom, blooms Apr to Nov, 2'-4' x 4', polyantha
- **Small Shrub**
Knock Out - Cherry red, semi-double blossom, blooms Apr to Nov, 3'-4' x 3'-4', shrub
- **Medium Shrub**
Carefree Beauty (Katy Road Pink) - Pink, semi-double blossom, fragrant, blooms Apr to Nov, 4'-5' x 4'-5', shrub
- **Large Shrub**
Mutabilis - Yellow/red/orange, single blossom, some fragrance, blooms Apr - Nov 4'-10' x 6', China
- **Climber**
Cl. Pinkie - rose pink, semi-double blossom, fragrant, blooms Apr - Nov, 8'-12' x 6', Cl. Polyantha

Tips for Growing EK Roses

For these roses to be as carefree as promised, it is crucial that they receive the following basic care:

Planting Site

- Eight hours of direct sunlight or more
- Good air movement over the leaves
- Avoid evening or nighttime sprinkler irrigation

Bed Preparation

- For sandy and loam soils: Incorporate 3" - 6" of organic matter such as compost.
- For clay soils: Incorporate 3" of organic matter (compost) and 3" of expanded shale. Plant on raised beds that are at least 4" - 6" above surrounding soil.

Soil Nutrients

If you plant EK Roses and follow EK soil preparation practices, you may never need to add fertilizer. If supplemental nutrients are needed, fertilize your roses in March, June and early August. Nitrogen is the nutrient that is normally needed. A slow release nitrogen fertilizer is recommended in the June and August application. A soil test will help identify plant nutrient deficiencies and excesses in your soil. Contact your county extension office for details.

Maintenance

Roses need a 3"-4" layer of organic mulch laid on the soil surface year-round. In areas with salty water, try to keep the water off the leaves by using drip or flood irrigation to water the roses. If sprinkler irrigation is your only option, water early in the morning before the sun rays are strong.

National EARTH-KIND™ Rose Research Garden

EST. 2006

Designed and Maintained by

Permian Basin Master Gardeners

Texas Cooperative Extension



Partially Funded by Dora Roberts Foundation

Contributors

Dora Roberts Foundation
Chamblee's Rose Nursery
Dirt Devil Landscaping
Gaye Hammond
Smith Tree and Landscape, Inc.
Sims Plastics, Inc.



For more information, see the Permian Basin Master Gardeners website:
<http://westtexasgardening.org>

