



*Rosa woodsii*

# The Indestructible Rose

Roses have long been a garden favorite because of their shape, color, fragrance, and romantic appeal. Hybridizers have spent many years developing new varieties, trying to improve these appealing qualities. Unfortunately, this emphasis in breeding resulted in a loss of other important qualities, such as cold-hardiness, vigor, pest-resistance and disease-resistance.

However, there are many less-familiar roses that haven't been hybridized. These are easy to grow, more resistant to insects and diseases, and do well in Utah's dry climate. So how can you enjoy roses in your landscape without all the time consuming work? Easy - choose a low maintenance rose that does well in Utah.

Consider the following roses instead of traditional Hybrid Tea or Floribunda types:

**Red-leaf Rose (*Rosa glauca*).** This shrub rose grows 5-7 ft. tall. The leaves have an attractive coppery or purplish hue. Single, light pink to deep pink flowers are borne once per year, in May-June. These later mature to beautiful, orange-red hips.

**Rugosa Rose (*Rosa rugosa*).** Wrinkled, dark green leaves give this plant its name - rugosa means wrinkled. It grows 4-6 ft. tall. Flowers are rose-purple to white and deliciously fragrant in June-August. Brick red hips, which are often used to make a fine jelly, decorate the plant in fall. Fall leaf color is coppery bronze. This shrub rose is pH adaptable, salt tolerant, and trouble free. There are many cultivars available.

**Woods Rose (*Rosa woodsii*).** This attractive rose is native to Utah so naturally it does well in our desert climate. It grows 5-7 ft. tall and has showy pink flowers in May and June, followed by small bright red hips. Woods Rose can tolerate most soil types, including high pH, and does not require much water or care. It spreads by its roots to form a small thicket.



*Rosa glauca*



*Rosa woodsii* fruit



*Rosa rugosa*

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