

Making the most of Roses in a small garden

No garden has room for every beautiful rose. But in every garden, no matter how small, there is a way to enjoy the world's most beloved bloom.

Go for mass effect

Simplicity is the key to making a small space feel larger. Instead of planting one of everything, make a bold show of colour by mass planting just one top-notch variety. When planting a row or block of any one plant, it's important to choose a healthy variety with good foliage that flowers freely and for as long as possible. Flower Carpet roses are reliable favourites but there are many other compact shrub and floribunda roses ideal for mass planting.



Use vertical space

Every sunny wall, fence, pergola or post is an opportunity to grow a rose. Old-world ramblers grow too large for many gardens and they tend to be once-only flowering. But if you love the old-fashioned look, train a tall David Austin shrub rose as a climber. Alternatively there are lots of modern climbing roses that repeat flower and are easily kept within bounds.

Make the most of fragrance

If there is only room for a few roses, they may as well be perfumed ones. All roses have some scent, but some are more potently perfumed than others.

Create Layers

Standard roses are a great way to add instant height emphasis in a small space. And, unlike trees, they don't keep getting taller. Underneath they can be planted with annuals for a different look each year, perennials for a colourful cottage garden effect, or leafy groundcovers for a permanent low maintenance look. Alternatively choose a groundcover rose for a second tier of roses.

Plan for picking

If you enjoy roses indoors, be sure to plant some you'll love to pick. Any rose can be arranged in a vase, but hybrid tea roses, borne singly on top of a long straight stem, were tailor made for the purpose.



Grow roses in containers

Some roses are specifically bred for tubs and pots. Generally known as patio roses, these varieties are compact in habit and repeat flowering with an abundance of bloom that belies their size. Any rose grown in a container needs regular feeding and watering.



Roses as shrubs

Roses don't have to have their own formal space. They can be blended into a mixed planting scheme with other shrubs and perennials. Try combining shrub roses with native evergreens, for example.

Build obelisks for tall or climbing roses

In winter the obelisk is a feature in its own right, adding vertical accent without taking up too much space. Timber obelisks can be painted to suit the colour scheme.

