

Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Rosa Chinensis
Common Name	Old Bush or Old Blush
Mature Size	5'x5'
Bloom Color	Bright Pink
Bloom Period	Perpetual
Boom Form	Loose Double
Water	Avg – Drought Tolerant
Light	Full Sun
USDA Zone	7-10
Fragrance	7
Uses	Hedge, Specimen Plant
Special Features	Prolific Bloomer EZ Grow



The *Heirloom, Own Root Rose Old Blush* is a very old China Rose. It is considered an ancient rose, going back to the 1700's and possibly earlier. It is properly named Old Blush, but is frequently referred to as Old Bush in the south. Every grandmothers' house that I ever visited as a child in Florida, Georgia and Alabama had one of these growing. It is a legend among rose enthusiasts that it is this rose that inspired Thomas Moore's famous poem 'The Last Rose of Summer'. Although some skeptics say the timeline does not support the notion, I believe it could be true, as this rose certainly continues to flower reliably when others are bare.

Old Blush is a very hardy repeat bloomer and is highly resistant to foliar. It is self curing as leaves that do spot up in hot humid weather, or after rain will self clean and fall away and new healthy growth will emerge. This rose is hardy to at least zone 6, but should might need to protected until well established and in cold pockets.

It will mature at about 6 feet to 8 feet, but can be maintained smaller with regular pruning after flowering.

The flowers are not as elegant and prissy looking (as my mama would say) as hybrid tea roses, but what they lack in form they make up for in color, quantity, fragrance and reliability. Looking out the window at this bush that is nearly always covered with flowers is source of constant relaxation and pleasure. Especially since they appear like clockwork. We have not found an easier or more rewarding rose to grow.

Direct planting of 4 inch size starter roses is not generally recommended, so for the best results with your new rose repot and allow it to grow larger before setting out into the landscape.

When the new pot has filled with roots and the rose is a bit larger, then here a few hints for successful growing:

Plant in well draining, fertile soil (amend with high quality organic material as needed)

Locate in full sun

Supply supplemental irrigation

Feed a good quality slow release fertilize formulated for roses with the initial planting and twice yearly thereafter.

Prune for shape after flowering.

Plant early in the season in Zones 6, 7 and 8 and mulch heavily ahead of the first freeze.

For quick answers to any growing or planting questions, just email us at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

The Last Rose of Summer – Thomas Moore

'Tis the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone;
No flower of her kindred,
No rosebud is nigh,
To reflect back her blushes,
To give sigh for sigh.

I'll not leave thee, thou lone one!
To pine on the stem;
Since the lovely are sleeping,
Go, sleep thou with them.
Thus kindly I scatter
Thy leaves o'er the bed,
Where thy mates of the garden
Lie scentless and dead.

So soon may I follow,
When friendships decay,
And from Love's shining circle
The gems drop away.
When true hearts lie withered
And fond ones are flown,
Oh! who would inhabit
This bleak world alone?

Care of Your New Rose

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new rose:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size roses directly into the landscape is not recommended. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately repot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. **DO NOT** use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily. Roses have high light needs and will grow poorly and fail to flower when planted in shade.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water. Roses prefer to be watered thoroughly and deeply and then allowed to dry down slightly between watering.
- Reuse moisture crystals with great care. These can be a very useful tool for conserving water, but holds 6000 times their weight and water. If you use them, monitor the soil moisture level carefully for over saturation until you are familiar with how they work.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune and pinch lightly, and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of insects and treat accordingly. Well established heirloom roses seldom need spraying, however for the best results symptoms in young plants should be treated appropriately and quickly.
- Protect from freezing until very well established.

ROSES ARE GENERALLY NOT SUITABLE FOR GROWING OR HOLDING INDOORS.

IF ROSES MUST BE BROUGHT INDOORS FOR COLD PROTECTION IT SHOULD BE THE SHORTEST PERIOD OF TIME POSSIBLE. ADEQUATE LIGHT AND AIR CIRCULATION ARE ESSENTIAL.

ROSES CAN DECLINE VERY QUICKLY UNDER AVERAGE INDOOR CONDITIONS.

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You can check your USDA Zone by visiting our website at emeraldgoddessgardens.com