



## Emerald Goddess Gardens

[emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com)

Botanical name: Rosa chinensis  
Common name: Climbing Prom Queen  
Mature Size: 8x8  
Growth Habit: Climber  
Bloom Color: Creamy White/Blush Pink Buds  
Bloom Form: Clusters  
Bloom Period: Perpetual  
Water Needs: Average – Drought Tolerant  
Light: Full Sun  
Hardiness: Zone 7-10 (Hardiness North of Zone 7 is unknown)  
Fragrance: 8  
Special Features: Tough, Hardy, Easy to Grow



If you have had trouble with roses before because you just can't keep up with the care, then Prom Queen should definitely be the next choice one you should try.

This exceptionally hardy, easy to grow rose was found in an old abandoned homestead property near the Florida Everglades many years ago. The property appeared to have been abandoned sometime in the mid 1930's yet growing along side a dilapidated old glass greenhouse was this breathtaking cascade of white flowers.

We were so impressed we dug up a portion and brought it home. However, the road to 'home' for this rose was a bit challenging. Just a short time after she arrived and was given a prestigious spot by the front door, the house burned to the ground, she had her roots ripped from the earth and relocated several times after that, survived a few near death encounters with chemicals and lawn equipment. Her reward for getting through all that was a long stint in solitary confinement thrown under a greenhouse table and largely forgotten.

Then not long after she was rescued of the weeds and given a new place to thrive, five back to back hurricanes in a single season left her buried under the massive trunk of a fallen oak for months, which we were sure would be her final resting place. Imagine the joy and surprise when these tiny pale green rose leaves started to peak out of the debris.

Every time I walk by her today, I cannot help but get a little sentimental about what a true testament this rose is to sheer will and determination to survive, but what it means to not just 'survive' but to get over, under and around set backs and obstacles to live, to grow, to put down deep roots and to bloom to the full potential.

After trying for many years to find out the true name of this rose, without success, we have accepted that her former, name, if she was ever given one, is lost. The best educated guess is that she is an unregistered hybrid cross between Prosperity and some other cream to pink toned China Rose.

So lacking a better name, we began to call her 'Prom Queen' because the when the perfectly pointed buds first begin to appear they are barely blushed pink and evoke (for us at least) memories of vintage prom and/or bridal gowns and those beautiful old rose corsages and wristlets from a bygone era.

Prom Queen has a well behaved caning, arching habit. It is one the easiest to grow of all that we have tried, and will bloom the most reliably with the least care of any others that we are familiar with. It is a perpetual bloomer that repeats with heavy clusters of medium, loosely doubled blooms all year in multiple shade of white, cream, soft creamy, shell pink, ivory and butter yellow. The flowers open slowly and so the bush remains in flower several weeks during each cycle.

It is a moderately thorny, but well behaved climber without house eating tendencies. It can be grown on a trellis or support, but also does fine an upright free formed caning shrub. The plant has an overall high degree of disease, pest and nematode tolerance, and generally will self cure from seasonal spotting without spraying.

Prom Queen has a moderately intense classic tea rose fragrance, with the peak notability early in the day when the flowers first fully open.

Cold Hardiness north of Zone 7 is unknown.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at [emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com)

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at [emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com)

## 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 re-pot 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 waterings.
- 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 disease or insects and treat accordingly. Well established heirloom roses seldom need spraying, however for the best results disease or pest 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.**

Please email us with any growing or planting questions at [emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com)

You can check your USDA Zone by visiting our website at [emeraldgoddessgardens.com](http://emeraldgoddessgardens.com)