



Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Rose chinensis
Common Name	Tom Thumb, Thumbelina
Mature Size	6' to 10' Runners
Growth Habit	Climber
Bloom Color	Blood Red
Bloom Period	Perpetual
Boom Form	Clusters
Water	Average
Light	Full Sun
USDA Zone	5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Fragrance	Light
Uses	Potted, Trellis
Special Features	Prolific Bloomer EZ to Grow



This lovely little heirloom climbing rose has been marketed under a number of names over the years, **Tom Thumb, Thumbelina, Sweetheart, Valentine, Gainesville Rose and Red Cascade** are just a few, with different names being more popular and common in different locations. In the South, **Red Cascade** and the **Gainesville Rose** are probably the most common.

Red Cascade is a lightly scented, perpetual bloomer and bears small blood red double flowers that are about an inch across in heavy clusters. It is a very tough, and resilient little rose, and will withstand a fair degree of neglect and abuse without serious complaint.

We describe it as *little* because the leaves and blooms are small, but don't let its small stature and little thumb size blooms fool you. It is a lovely, showy, reliable bloomer and a fairly quick growing and vigorous climber that can make short work covering a trellis or filling a hanging basket. The thin limbs are moderately thorny, grow in long runners and remain flexible enough to drape over the edges of baskets and planters nicely, or tied and trained to shaped trellis or other support such as wire hoops.

They generally live long and disease and nematode free lives in a wide range of soil types. As is true with all roses, they can be effected by black spot when conditions are favorable (hot, wet, humid) but will generally self cure without spraying as soon as the weather improves.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size roses is not recommended, so for the best results with your new plant, we recommend it be repotted and allowed to grow larger before setting out in the landscape within the recommended USDA Zone range. Please note that roses are very difficult to hold or winter over indoors due high light needs.

When the new pot has filled with roots and the plant is larger, then here a few hints for successful growing in the landscape. **Red Cascade** can be grown as a potted plant indefinitely.

- Plant in fertile well draining, slightly acidic soil. Amend with high quality organic material as needed.
- Locate in full sun. Roses require a minimum of 4 to 6 hours of full spectrum light daily to grow and flower to their full potential.
- Provide supplemental irrigation. As a general rule, avoid water roses from overhead and use a slow soak or drip method. Roses like deep, thorough watering and a chance to dry down in between waterings.
- Feed a good quality, slow release, bloom boosting fertilize with the initial planting and twice yearly in the early Spring and early Fall thereafter.
- Supplement with a water soluble plant food in between feeding.
- Prune lightly and often when young to encourage branching and after flowering to promote uniform shape and control size.
- Deadhead spent blooms for the fastest rebloom.
- Plant early in the season in Zones 7 and 8A and mulch heavily well ahead of the first freeze.

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

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at 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 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.
- 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 insects and treat accordingly. Well established heirloom roses seldom need spraying, however for the best results 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