

Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Plant Family	Rosacea
Botanical Name	R. cathayensis platyphylla , R. multiflora grevillei , R. multiflora platyphylla , R. thoryi , 'Seven Sisters'
Common Name	Seven Sisters
Mature Size	10 to 12 feet
Growth Habit	Caning, sprawling
Bloom Color	Various shades of pink
Bloom Form	Double Cluster
Bloom Time	Spring
Water Needs	Moderate until well established
Light Needs	Full sun
Zone	7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Key Features	Exceptionally strong, vigorous grower, fragrance
Suggested Uses	Trellis, fence, free form, arbor



The

Seven Sisters Rose is one of the favorite and best loved old roses in the South. This vigorous growing, hardy lady is often still found rambling her way around old homesteads and long forgotten fence right of ways. This rose is a living testament to just making the best out of bad situations. She is a long lived hardy beauty that will find a way to survive and thrive in wide range of conditions. She will endure poor soils, adapt to overgrown shade and survive periods drought, and somehow still burst out in clusters of densely doubled pink flowers from head to toe in the late spring to early summer.

Seven Sisters is an old oriental rose that is believed to have been brought from Japan in the early 1800's by Charles Greville, who was a patron of botany and President of the Royal Society of England.

This rose was also painted by the renowned French artist, Pierre Josph Redoute, and a grand **Seven Sisters Rose** graces the *Manor House of the Coton Manor Gardens in Northamptonshire England*, and this gorgeous display has often been a favorite subject of many artists and photographers

The name '*Seven Sisters*' may be a translation of the original Japanese name. It is commonly noted that the name refers to seven flowers in each cluster. However, the older botanical literature does not support this idea. '**Seven Sisters**' is actually a reference to the varying shades of nearly red to mauve pink to white colors that make the bush appear to be various different pink shade roses all blooming at once. The colors range in seven different shades from deep carmine, to creamy pink, rose pink, shades of purple and mauve & creamy white all within the same clusters and same flowers.

A true '**Seven Sisters**' can be hard to find as it is often confused with other old *Pink China Roses* such as *Pink Pet*, *Old Bush*, and *The Fairy*. Although, all those are nice old roses, *Seven Sisters* is distinctive in the range of colors, riotous blooming, heady fragrance, and vigorous, tenacious hardiness.

This old rose is color plate from a fairy tale when it is in full bloom. The approximate 3 inch flowers are dense and highly doubled in form, and hang in prolific multiple clusters of 3 to 10 blooms and buds to each cluster, and are highly fragrant. The fragrance is romantic and fruity, and is discernible from several feet away, especially in the early morning, and wanes as the day heats up.

It is a fast, quick to establish and vigorous grower that needs little more than an aggressive pruning when the bloom is done, and light feeding once or twice each year. It can be prone to downy mildew at times, but generally self cures when weather conditions improve. The canes are quite thorny, so care is needed when pruning. Prune soon after blooming to avoid cutting away the next season bloom.

Please note that we do not recommend attempting to grow roses indoors.

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. 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.

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