

My garden may be small, but that's no reason to skimp on the roses. I plant own-root roses, and enjoy their flowers, scent, form and color for most of the year. Here are my eight favorites:

'The Fairy' – This sweet polyantha produces sprays of pink flowers for many months of the year. It will scramble around, so I've planted it at the base of the metal arbor (from Rosebar, www.rosebar.net) just outside the kitchen window.

'Scabrosa' – Rugosa roses are tough, so I planted this one in the parking strip where it blooms for months during the summer, and sets huge, fat hips. The flowers are single, deep rose pink and highly fragrant: I can be weeding several feet away and smell the perfume. The foliage is completely clean, and has that fabulous rugged rugosa texture.

'Blushing Lucy' – Ramblers are old-fashioned charmers as 'Blushing Lucy' shows. Light pink flowers appear in summer, and a few more later on. The foliage is glossy and healthy.

Rosa glauca – The red-leaf rose is known more for its foliage than its flowers, which are pleasing, single, small and pink (appearing once). The overall color is a bluish tone, and the hips ripen to a lovely reddish brown.



'Westerland' – Pleasing apricot flowers with a fine fragrance are almost reason alone to plant 'Westerland'. Even better: It's got good disease resistance AND it reblooms. What more can you ask? I've got it on the other side of the arbor from 'The Fairy'. 'Westerland' will get to about 12 feet as a climber/pillar, or grow it as a shrub.

'Corylus' – I'm fascinated by the leaves of this rose, which remind me of a divided elderberry leaf, as well as the lovely single pink flowers. I have it planted with the charming, light blue bells of Clematis 'Betty Corning.'



'Therese Bugnet' – This rugosa hybrid blooms in summer with perfumed, pink, double flowers. It doesn't set hips, but does provide great winter interest with its purple-red stems.

'Green Snake' – OK, here's the little charmer that I brag about. 'Green Snake' is a ground cover rose, but not in the modern sense that it will grow 3 feet high. 'Green Snake' grows flat on the ground, 10 feet wide. If it comes to an obstacle, it will hop over it and continue to grow. Once-blooming with single, shell-pink flowers that face upward, but it rewards you for months and months of the year. The foliage is glossy and clean, it's practically evergreen and the flowers develop into sprays of tiny red hips that stay through winter. Fabulous!