



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

*Grow there.*

### **Welcome to the Rose Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**

The new Rose Garden at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden has a novel approach to its planning. We begin with the genetics! The rose collection reflects some of the newest cultivated varieties (cultivars) available in the U.S. and the most genetically superior hybrids bred for disease resistance, vigor, re-bloom and fragrance. The majority of the varieties are from hybridizers in France, Italy, Germany and England, and most will be new to the Central Tidewater region. The selections have been carefully made with concern for environmental responsibility to minimize the need for fungicides to control disease, particularly black spot. Most of the roses are “on their own roots”, rather than the traditional grafting. The result is increased vigor and hardiness. This selection, testing and introduction process continues with new generations of roses available each year, and promises to make gardening with roses easier and more “Earth Friendly.”

The rose garden is designed with meandering six-foot wide walkways to bring its visitors in intimate contact with the plants and blooms – encouraging that almost instinctive bending forward to smell a rose flower for its perfume! Another unique aspect of the design is the color scheme – the central, oval lawn area is planted in whites and creams, with pinks, purples and reds graduating in intensity to the southwest (right) side, and yellows, apricots and oranges graduating in intensity to the northwest (left) side.

The paved patio area adjacent to the stone pavilions is enlarged to accommodate a wider range of performing arts programs, to be enjoyed by our visitors seated on the terraced lawn between the Garden and the Conservatory. This also will become a very desirable site for weddings, rental events and Garden-sponsored activities. There is a subtle element embedded into the patio-paving pattern – a 24-foot-diameter labyrinth for meditative and spiritual exploration can be used amid the beauty and fragrance of the roses.

Placed parallel to the lake edge is a row of Yoshino cherry trees and an under-planting of azaleas for April color and to frame the view to the lake throughout the growing season. Ultimately, when a donor is found, there will be a dramatic water jet rising from the lake, centered on an axis originating at the Sunken Garden, passing through the Rose Garden, and visually terminating the view.

In addition to the fragrant and beautiful display, the garden teaches about rose breeding and rose culture. The rose garden serves as an educational resource to teach about the long, rich history of the genus and the humans who have so carefully nurtured roses over the centuries. Roses are the longest-blooming flowering plants in the garden and should provide a long season of interest and color, beginning in early May through the end of the growing season in early November. Return all season long to see roses mature and bloom again. A formal dedication took place in the mid-fall of 2008, allowing the rose plants to establish and mature for a stunning grand opening!

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“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses.”

—Abraham Lincoln



## **How Does Our Garden Grow?**

A few rose gardening tips from the horticulturists at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (LGBG). The right plants and the right gardening conditions make it easy!

- **Choose genetically superior, disease resistant hybrids.** Study our plant list and examine our plants during the growing season to see some of the best varieties.
- **Select a garden location in full sun.** with excellent air movement. Both conditions are essential for plant vigor and disease control.
- **Install drip irrigation.** Black spot fungal disease, a prime problem with roses, is disseminated by splashing water from irrigation and rain.
- **Amend the soil.** The LGBG Rose Garden soils are 1/3 loam topsoil; 1/3 composted pine bark; 1/6 Permatil™ (expanded shale) and 1/6 sharp quartzite sand. This was installed 24” deep with drain tile beneath. At home, you may want to add the same to clay soils.
- **Mulch with hardwood bark** at least 3” deep. This helps to conserve moisture, prevent weed germination and stops some of the black spot spores from splashing onto the undersides of rose leaves.
- **Feed** Roses bloom best when fed heavily. Compost and composted manure may not be enough nutrients for excellent repeat bloom. There are many products on the market. At LGBG, we use the following on each plant, two times each season, spring and fall:
  - 1 c Rose Tone™
  - 2 c Mill’s Magic™
  - 3 c Composted manure at planting
  - ¼ c Triple Phosphate

Each month add:

- 1 c Rose Tone™
- **For more information,** seek out the information from the sources listed. In addition, join the **Richmond Rose Society** and learn from the experts!