



The 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote, passed out of Congress in 1919 and went to the states for ratification. Thirty-six states were needed to make the amendment law, and Tennessee became the final battleground as pro- and anti-suffrage forces swarmed the capital in the summer of 1920. In what became known as Tennessee's War of the Roses, pro-suffragists sported yellow roses to symbolize their support, and anti-suffragists wore red roses. They distributed these roses to the legislators to wear on their lapels. On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee General Assembly passed the ratification resolution, providing the final ratification needed and earning the state the nickname "The Perfect 36."

Join us in celebrating the 100th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote by planting commemorative yellow rose bushes in honor of Tennessee's War of the Roses!

Roses for Tennessee Gardens



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Roses are one of the most popular and attractive flowering shrubs for Tennessee gardens. They vary in size and form (miniatures, shrubs, hybrid tea (classic rose), climbers, etc.), color, appearance, fragrance, and disease resistance. Growers can choose old roses with historical significance or modern cultivars, and the selection is almost limitless (Fig. 1A).

Site selection is important for successfully growing roses. Roses require full sun and will not reach their potential (flower size, flower number, level of disease resistance, etc.) if not grown in 6-8 hours of full sun. Roses can be grown successfully in traditional rose beds (just roses), mixed plantings with other landscape plants or in containers. If grown in beds, the soil needs to have good drainage. Roses will grow in clay soils. However, when planting in clay, break up the sides of freshly dug holes so that water is accessible when needed but not excessive. Roses tolerate a wide range of pH, but grow best in a pH range of 6-6.4. If pH is too high, roses may exhibit symptoms of iron deficiency.

Growing roses is not complicated, but a few key needs are essential. Roses require about an inch of water each week. When irrigating, apply water so that foliage remains dry (drip irrigation or soaker hoses). Although many rose growers use complicated fertilizer regimes and nutrient teas, most roses will thrive with the simple addition of a liquid feed fertilizer applied at the rate of 1 tablespoon of fertilizer per gallon of water per bush about once a month. Roses will bloom most heavily throughout the season by removing old blooms (called dead heading) before hips (seedpods) begin to develop. The

optimal time for this type of pruning is at the “shatter stage” (when you can gently tap older blooms and the petals fall off).

When choosing roses for the garden or patio, options abound. For example, if one wanted to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of women’s suffrage, picking yellow roses would be desirable. Carefree Sunshine (Fig. 1B) is a large shrub rose that blooms all summer in Tennessee and requires little care. Other yellow roses for Tennessee gardens include hybrid tea/floribunda roses such as St. Patrick’s Day, Julia Child, and Sunsprite, ground cover roses such as Lemon Fizz and the new miniflora rose, Yellow Delight.

For more information on rose care, download the new UT publication 833 (<https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W833.pdf>).

Fig. 1(A) Roses can be grown together to give splashes of color, textures and fragrance. (B). Carefree Sunshine is a rose that tolerates soil types, watering regimes, and is resistant to blackspot (does not need spraying).

