

ENVIRONMENT



A Rosa Snowfire rose at the Gainan's Heights Garden Center.

Beginners' blooms

Experts offer advice to help novices add a touch of rosy color to home gardens

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"Stop and smell the roses."
"Everything's coming up roses."
"That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."
Roses permeate our culture — and our gardens. Their scent compels us to pause in the midst of a busy day and breathe in their perfume.
They come in many colors that even have assigned meanings: red for romance, pink for appreciation, yellow for friendship and white for purity or innocence.
But for some, the thought of planting roses is intimidating. The American Rose Society would like to change that way of thinking.
"One of our big things we like to tell people is that growing roses is easy if you choose the right rose for the right place," said Beth Smiley in a telephone interview from Shreveport, La., home to the society's headquarters.
That includes picking the right rose for the right climate, she said.
"Roses that grow well here in Louisiana are not going to grow well in Montana," said Smiley, publications director for the national nonprofit.
"You can probably grow anything in California."



Mick Gainan, part-owner of Gainan's Flowers and Garden Center, works with roses at the Gainan's Heights Garden Center.

>> To learn more about caring for roses, find links to resources online in this story at billingsgazette.com.

As proof of the hardiness of roses, Smiley points to their prehistoric origins. Archaeologists discovered the

fossils of roses with dinosaur fossils in Colorado, she said.

"They go back to ancient times, traced back to China," Smiley said. "And there are stories of roses being used for health benefits back in Medieval times." Napoleon Bonaparte's wife, Jose-

phine, is credited with their continued existence. She had roses shipped from China to France, which became even more crucial after roses all but disappeared from China.

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