Bred in Lyon, France by Jean-Claude Ducher in the year 1869, Ducher, pronounced doo-shay, is one of a very few white China roses. While the Ducher family bred many lovely roses over a lengthy period, this modest rose is the one they chose to bear their family name. Petals of the medium size blooms are pure white though the light reflected often takes on a creamy color. The bush has been described as looking like snow in a pine forest. The double blooms have a fruity fragrance. The compact and rounded, twiggy bush is a nice landscape shrub either as a specimen plant or in a drift of 3 to 5 plants. The soft fullness of the foliage and showy flowers make this an excellent choice to blend with more structured shrubs in a landscape. As one of the smaller China roses, it works well in a large pot as well. Ducher tolerates heat, sun and various soil conditions.

**Ducher:**

Medium Shrub  
**Classification:** China  
**Year Introduced:** 1869  
**Growth Habit:** Full, bushy  
**Height:** 6 ft.  
**Width:** 4 ft.  
**Spacing:** 6 ft. apart on centers  
**Color:** Ivory white  
**Bloom:** Very double, flat, medium in size. Successive flushes of bloom spring, summer, and fall  
**Fragrant:** Yes, fruity and sweet  
**Foliage:** New growth is bronze, mature foliage is light green  
**Planting Site:** Full sun, good air circulation  
**Water Use:** Keep moist until established (usually requires one month to establish). Average water needs during growing season  
**Cold Hardiness:** Hardy in zones 7-9  
**History:** Parents=unknown.

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**What is Earth-Kind® Landscaping?**

Earth-Kind Landscaping uses research-proven techniques to provide maximum gardening and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting our environment.

The objective of Earth-Kind is to combine the best of organic and traditional gardening and landscaping principles to create a horticultural system based on real world effectiveness and environmental responsibility. Earth-Kind Landscaping Encourages:

* Water conservation  
* Landscaping for energy conservation  
* Reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use  
* Reduction of yard wastes entering landfills

Individuals using Earth-Kind® landscaping principles and practices can create beautiful, easy-care landscapes, while conserving and protecting natural resources and the environment.
Growing Tips for Earth-Kind® Roses:

**Planting Site:**
Plant in locations where roses receive full, direct sunlight for at least eight hours each day.

Choose a location that provides good air movement over the leaves and do not plant too close together or place in cramped, enclosed areas.

When a plant is fully-grown, there should remain at least one foot of open space all around it to facilitate good air movement. This practice will help reduce the potential for foliar diseases.

**Bed Preparation:**
Roses respond well to soils with an adequate balance of aeration, drainage, and water-holding characteristics.

For sandy and loam soils, incorporate 3-6 inches of fully decomposed, plant-derived compost.

For clay soils, consider a one-time incorporation of 3 inches of expanded shale to improve soil aeration and drainage. Then incorporate 3 inches of fully decomposed, plant-derived compost. Thoroughly mix the existing soil, expanded shale, and compost into a uniform planting medium. If necessary due to availability or cost, compost can be used as an alternative to expanded shale.

For clay soils, it is also beneficial to create raised beds, crowned (i.e., higher) in the center, to promote drainage.

Regardless of soil type, roses benefit from a year-round, 3-inch layer of organic mulch that conserves water, reduces weeds, reduces soil-borne plant diseases, moderates soil temperatures, and provides nutrients as it decomposes.

**Irrigation and Maintenance:**
Water thoroughly whenever the soil is dry in the root zone to a depth of one inch.

Watering established plants too frequently can promote root disease, especially in poorly drained soils.

Roses should not be sprinkler irrigated, especially during evening hours or at night. Drip irrigation is a much better watering method for plant health and water conservation.

In areas with “salty” water, drip irrigation is needed to eliminate burning of the rose foliage due to salty irrigation spray.

Follow recommended plant spacing and pruning practices. Remove dead, diseased, or broken branches to help promote plant health.

Replenish the mulch as needed to maintain the 3-inch layer. Remember as the mulch decomposes, it provides nutrients for plant use.