



Carefree Beauty:

One of the best of the carefree shrub roses developed by Dr. Griffith Buck at Iowa State University to withstand the cold and long winters of the Midwest, Carefree Beauty has also proven to be an excellent choice for gardens in Texas that are challenged by hot, dry summers. Carefree Beauty was named 2006 “Earth-Kind® Rose of the Year” by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and is also recommended by the University of Minnesota. Introduced in 1977, this rose was known in Texas for several years as “Katy Road Pink” after it was “found” on Katy Road in Houston. It fast and furiously produces successive flushes of deep rich pink blossoms from spring until frost. The flowers open flat with a few irregular, loose petals at the center and an occasional white stripe running through them. Large orange hips are produced from nearly every flower. The rich color of the shrub makes it a natural choice for uses in groupings of 3 to 5 plants in locations to which you want the viewer’s eye to be drawn.

Medium Shrub

Classification: Shrub rose

Year Introduced: 1977

Growth Habit: Vigorous, somewhat open

Height: 5 ft.

Width: 5 ft.

Spacing: 7 ft. apart on centers

Color: Deep rich pink

Bloom: Semi-double, up to 4” diameter. Successive flushes of bloom spring, summer, and fall

Fragrance: Moderate

Foliage: Healthy

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. Appears to tolerate highly saline irrigation water when drip irrigated

Cold Hardiness: Hardy in zones 4-9

History: Developed by Dr. Griffith Buck at Iowa State University. Parents=Seedling x ‘Prairie Princess’

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.

What Are...

Earth-Kind® Roses?

Earth-Kind® is a special designation given to select rose cultivars by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service through the Earth-Kind® landscaping program. It is based on the results of extensive research and field trials and is awarded only to those roses demonstrating superior pest tolerance, combined with outstanding landscape performance.

Earth-Kind® roses do well in a variety of soil types, ranging from well-drained acid sands to poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays. Once established, these select cultivars also have excellent heat and drought tolerance.

The use of Earth-Kind® roses provides the opportunity to enjoy these wonderful flowering plants while limiting the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and water. These sustainable practices are excellent examples of how Earth-Kind® landscaping is working to preserve and protect our natural resources and the environment.

For More Information

Visit the Earth-Kind® Rose Web Site

<http://EKRoses.tamu.edu>



The term, Earth-Kind, is a federally registered trademark of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System.

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.