

TOP TEN ROSE FACTS

1. There are over 100 species of roses.
2. Roses come in different shades of white, yellow, pink, orange and red. There are actually no blue or black roses. So-called "black" roses are, in fact, very dark red.
3. Rose blossoms can range from a couple to 33 inches in diameter.
4. Roses are native to the US. The oldest fossilized imprint was left on a slate deposit in Colorado. It is estimated to be 35 million years old.
5. Individual rose bushes can be extremely long lived. The rose that covers the wall of the Cathedral of Hildesheim in Germany has survived for over 1,000 years.
6. In 1986, the rose became the official floral emblem of the US. It is also the state flower of New York, Iowa, North Dakota, and Georgia.
7. George Washington, our first president, was also America's first rose breeder.
8. In 2005 alone, 180 million roses were purchased by the floral industry for Valentine's Day. Seventy-four percent of these were purchased by men.
9. It takes 2,000 roses to produce just 1 gram of rose oil used in the manufacture of pricey perfumes. No wonder it's pricey!
10. Rose hip is the fruit of the rose. It is a rich source of vitamin C, and is sometimes used in folk medicine to relieve stomach pain and even to treat cancer.