Botanical Name

Genus: *Rosa*

Species: *hybrida*

Family: *Rosaceae*

*Types:* Hybrid Teas, Sprays  
*Common Names:* Rose

*Stem Length:* 20 to 90 cm, usually 30 to 70 cm.

*Country Of Origin:* China
General Description/History:

• The most popular cut flower, the rose is the symbol of England and closely associated with love and St Valentine’s Day.

• Roses are the number 1 selling cut flower worldwide and in Australia and have been for decades.

• In Holland they outsold the second most popular flower (tulip) by almost 3 to 1 in 2004
General Description:

Most cut roses are single stems of the hybrid tea varieties with one flower per stem, but recently spray roses, with several flowers per stem have become more popular. Rose breeding has been going on for centuries. There are now literally thousands of rose varieties with dozens of new cut flower varieties released each year by the major breeders.
General Description:

• Cut rose flowers come in every colour and shade except blue or black. Red is by far the most popular colour.

• For many years new varieties were bred primarily for colour, long vase life, yield (ie number of stems per bush) or pest & disease resistance, so perfume tended to be neglected.

• This is now beginning to change with several new red, yellow and mauve/purple varieties now available with good perfume and relatively long vase life. ‘Extase’ (deep red) is a good example of these new varieties.
Colours Available

All colours except blue and black.
Availability:

• Roses are almost universally grown in glasshouses where every aspect of the climate (eg temperature, humidity, light, even CO2 levels) are closely controlled.

• For commercial reasons, the major growing regions are shifting from the northern hemisphere, eg Holland and USA, to Africa, South America and SE Asia.
What to look for:

- Flowers should stick straight up from the stem with NO angle;
- Leaves should be dark green and veins should not be prominent;
- Cut stems ends should be green/white, not brown;
  - Clean petals with no blotches, spots or creases;
- In winter, avoid bunches with tight buds – they may not open.
Flower Care:

1. Keep them cool (ie 1 to 4oC) at all times – this means florists should not display bunches outside the shop.

2. Strip all leaves from the bottom 2/3 of each stem. Removing thorns is optional as it will not improve flower life.

3. Do NOT bash or split stems.
Flower Care:

4. Re-cut 2 to 3 cm with sharp secateurs off the stems underwater after purchase, if possible. If you can’t manage this re-cut stems one at a time and place in clean water as soon as the cut has been made. Don’t leave roses out of water for long – if they are out for more than 20 minutes re-cut each stem again and place in water immediately. Cold water is best for roses.
Flower Care:

• Water MUST be clean. The best way to do this is to use a floral preservative and top up the vase with clean water (+preservative) every day.

• Replace the vase water completely every 2 to 3 days – don’t just keep topping it up.

• Open tight buds by recutting stems underwater, then wrap the bunch tightly in paper (not newspaper as the ink may stain the flowers), then place the bunch in deep, lukewarm water.
Interesting Facts about this Flower:

After the end of the 3rd Crusade in the 12th century, the crusaders returned to the west with rose plants which were then cultivated by monks in their monastery gardens for their medicinal properties. Rose water was successfully used to cure all kinds of ailments, such as trembling, constipation, drunkenness, skin and throat infections and insomnia. There is some truth in this as we now know Rosa rugosa hips contain high levels of Vitamin C.
References

• http://www.abc.net.au/gardening
• http://www.marketfresh.com.au