An enthusiastic Denver Rose Society, newly founded in 1947, held its first rose show in 1948. In 1960, the DRS hosted the first of several ARS National Conventions. Our longstanding motto: “Let’s Grow Roses – For Fun,” reflects the contagious energy of this vibrant rose society. As we move on, we seek to promote sustainable gardening and responsible water management in our semi-arid climate. We love our roses every minute of our short growing season!

**Rose Education**

“Learning and passing on what we have learned has been a basic part of the Denver Rose Society from its very beginning.” - Joan Franson

Our Speakers Bureau presents over 25 classes at various venues each year. We have provided continuing education training for several Colorado Master Gardener programs. Dave Ingram recently made two appearances on “Ask the Garden Pros,” a weekly local radio talk show. Additionally, over 35 members volunteer 130+ hours each May in rose departments of local garden centers, seeking to educate, encourage – and recruit.

**Unique Rose Gardening in Colorado**

In the early 1990’s, a “Rose Bowl” garden at the Jefferson County Detention Center in Golden, CO, was granted All-American Rose Selection Public Garden status. Early DRS planners included Joan Truby, Geraldine Boller, Carolyn Fylling and Marcie Emily. This is the only rose garden in the U.S. tended by inmates (some of whom find new horticultural careers as a result). In late April, DRS volunteers invite the public to “practice pruning on someone ELSE’s roses!” and receive hands-on demonstration and coaching.

Mile-Hi Rose Feed® is a top-notch organic fertilizer we’ve loved for over 35 years. Royal Franklin of the DRS traveled the world to find the right ingredients and develop the best mixture to help roses thrive in the alkaline clay soils of Colorado. www.MileHiRoseFeed.com.

High Country Roses is a family business founded in 1970 by Dr. Bill Campbell, a dedicated rosarian and researcher and an avid ARS and local rose society member. Today, Matt Douglas (Bill’s stepson) and his team propagate thousands of own-root roses, with an emphasis on cold-hardy old garden and modern roses. www.HighCountryRoses.com; pickup by appointment, ships to all 50 states.
Growing Roses in Colorado
A 55-page booklet written by generations of ARS Consulting Rosarians, is a trusted regional resource and valued society fundraiser. It is currently available for purchase at local garden centers and online through the Denver Rose Society.

Looking Ahead: Fall & Winter
Looking Ahead: Fall into Winter
Colorado rose growers are a hardy lot. We resist the urge to prune too early in the spring, as 70˚ days soon turn into spring blizzards with temps plummeting into the 20’s. Our growing season is May through late Oct. To keep our grafted roses alive, we plant the top of the graft one-to-three inches below soil level, and “put them to bed for the winter,” which means to:
• Apply last fertilization by mid-Aug.
• Stop pruning by the end of Aug.
• Cut just beneath the bloom in Sept.
• Water less frequently in Sept.
• Deep-water prior to hard freezes
• Mound six to 12 inches of soil or mulch on our grafted and first year roses (around Thanksgiving)

Revamped Website
www.DenverRoseSociety.org offers easy navigation and online membership, informs with articles and resources and promotes our events and diverse monthly programs. We also have a growing presence on Facebook and Instagram.

Five Favorite Hardy Roses for Zone 5
While mountain dwellers rely on species roses, rugged rugosas and Canadian shrubs, Denver area rosarians have hundreds more choices, such as: ‘Ramblin’ Red’: Cane hardy along the front range; ‘Grandma’s Blessing’: “It just blooms and blooms!” - Joan Franson; ‘Golden Wings’: Resilient and lovely; ‘Scentimental’: Fragrance in a dry climate; ‘Gemini’: See Growing Roses In Colorado cover (left)