

# Poor David's Almanac

By Dave Ingram, Master Rosarian

*"A garden infected with greed,  
Has roses as far as the eye can see."*

## Getting Started With Roses – Volume VIII (Winter)

### Internet Mail-Order Nurseries

I have read that over the centuries more than 20,000 rose varieties have been introduced. Many of these have disappeared, but there are still several *thousand* cultivars available, and if you want, you can buy them all for your garden. Some are hundreds of years old and alive with history; others are brand new; the exciting work of today's top rose hybridizers. It's now my happy duty to introduce you to a wonderful and hopeless addiction—endless roses!

In this series of articles, you have learned how to plant well-started, # 1 roses from local nurseries in your garden and succeed with them. This will always be your best road to success—that is why local nurseries are there. I prefer to buy roses this way, despite the cost. But local nurseries can only offer the tip of the iceberg of all the varieties out there. There is a world of internet nurseries offering an amazing variety of roses. I've even listed some websites that let you do research. And if nothing else, what follows is a fine source of knowledge.

Be aware that most mail order nurseries offer first year rooted (own-root) cuttings for sale, much smaller and more fragile than what you have dealt with this year. These plants are shipped to you in small pots (generally 4" x 4" x 5" deep), often called "bands," to save shipping costs. The plants average maybe 6" to 8" in height, and they will need a couple of years of attention to reach the size of the roses you have put in this year, and maybe 3 to 5 years to reach full, mature size. Miniatures may arrive in even smaller pots. But fear not—the same principles you have followed and the skills you have learned from the "*Growing Roses in Colorado*" book will help you succeed with these young cuttings. Other mail-order nurseries offer larger pots, and a few offer gallon pots (which cost more to ship to you).

Be aware that there are entire classes of roses that are not winter hardy in our area. They may grow well in the south or on the west coast, but our winters are too long and cold for them to survive here. Roses rated for USDA cold zones 7 or above will not survive in Colorado. Those rated for zone 5 & 6 can survive with winter protection. Those rated zone 4 or lower do just great, and may suffer minimal winter damage. Research hardiness before ordering.

Most of the nurseries listed below have been around for awhile; but the waves of change may drown some of them—so the old expression of "caveat emptor" is good advice. Several offer

discounts to ARS members, another good reason to join the American Rose Society! Explore these sites, and follow their links for a journey full of history and beauty. First up, an index site:

[helpmefind.com/roses](http://helpmefind.com/roses)—a search site that has cataloged over 44,000 roses, with over 160,000 photos. There are links to plant nurseries, public and private gardens, plant societies, and much more. A wonderful resource.

High Country Roses—[highcountryroses.com](http://highcountryroses.com). 1-800-552-2082. Catalog available. Located in Arvada, CO, with family ties to the DRS. We have sold their plants at our events for years, and I bet most of our members have at least one of their roses in their gardens. Over 300 varieties, focused on plants that are hardy in our climate. Great descriptions of each variety, with photos. Good selection, excellent service.

Roses Unlimited—[rosesunlimiteddownroot.com](http://rosesunlimiteddownroot.com). 864-682-7673. Laurens, SC. Hundreds of varieties from all over the world. These are bigger plants in gallon pots; shipping costs are higher. Good selection and good service from a modest website. Phone orders only.

Rosemania.com 1-888-600-9665. Franklin, TN. A big supporter of the ARS, this is a top site for ordering garden chemicals in quantity and other equipment. Great service on a great ordering site.

Heirloom Roses—[heirloomroses.com](http://heirloomroses.com). 503-538-1576. St. Paul, OR. The late John Clements built this business on a fine selection of top varieties, along with his own introductions. Good service, good ordering site. Photos to make you drool.

Northland Rosarium—[northlandrosarium.com](http://northlandrosarium.com). 509-448-4968. Spokane, WA. Strong selection of Canadian, Kordes, and Griffith Buck hardy roses, along with many others. Good service and on-site ordering.

Want more? Oh, I don't know. Well . . . Okay!

Chamblee Roses - [chambleeroses.com](http://chambleeroses.com)—Texas. Over 300 varieties, in gallons (higher shipping). I've been impressed with their healthy plants.

Antique Rose Emporium - [antiqueroseemporium.com](http://antiqueroseemporium.com)—Texas. Good selection, in 2-gallon pots (higher shipping).

Rogue Valley Roses - [roguevalleyroses.com](http://roguevalleyroses.com)—Oregon. About 1,400 varieties. Ships in bands, and has varieties no one else does.

David Austin Roses - [davidaustrinroses.com/american](http://davidaustrinroses.com/american)—Texas. Catalog available. All those great English roses, produced here in the United States mostly as grafted, bare-root plants. Some are now available as own-root, and in recent years, some varieties are shipped in pots.

Jackson and Perkins - [jacksonandperkins.com](http://jacksonandperkins.com). Catalog available. They offer bareroot roses in the spring and pots in the summer.

Weeks Roses - [weeksroses.com](http://weeksroses.com)—Wholesale only, but you can surf their roses to find out what your local nursery might carry next spring. Weeks is the largest rose distributor to local nurseries.

Star Roses - [starrosesandplants.com](http://starrosesandplants.com) - Wholesale only. This is where the great 'Peace' rose comes from, as well as the Knock Out® series. Star now distributes Kordes roses, a great series of winter hardy roses from Germany. Surf and dream!

There are many more nurseries. I am sure I have missed some that our members love. But enough for now! If you have visited all the sites listed here, then you understand how inspirational the rose hobby can be. Congratulations! You are well started as a rosarian!

This series of articles has helped you get roses in the ground that should bring you many years of enjoyment, and I have tried to kick the door open on how to let your life and garden drift totally out of control, like Poor David's has.

The Denver Rose Society has many ways to help you with roses and as a gardener. We have great educational programs each month. Make sure your membership is updated (do it today!!), and let's get together and share our discoveries.