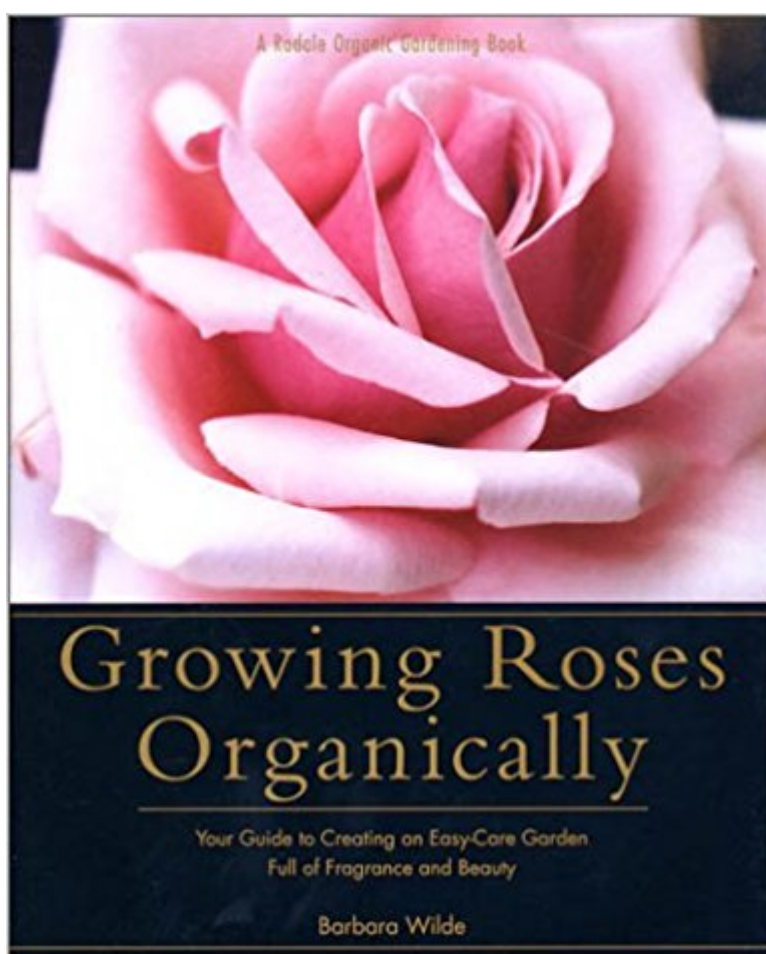


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# Growing Roses Organically: Your Guide To Creating An Easy-Care Garden Full Of Fragrance And Beauty (Rodale Organic Gardening Book)



## Synopsis

Not many gardeners can resist the beauty of a rose-- a flower so divine and graceful in appearance and, in many cases, so wonderfully fragrant that it evokes thoughts of love and romance at first encounter. Many gardeners, however, also see a fussy plant that's hard to grow and needs special attention, as well as a host of chemicals to keep diseases and pests at bay. In *Growing Roses Organically*, Barbara Wilde challenges the myth that growing roses has to be a time-consuming task that you can't do effectively without using chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In fact, she takes the intimidation out of growing roses by sharing her well-rounded, holistic approach for success. Wilde starts with tips for choosing healthy varieties, including hints for buying the best bareroot and container plants. She guides you through careful soil preparation and proper planting techniques and offers advice on how to gently intervene when it comes to pest and disease problems. Wilde also demystifies pruning-- a task that perplexes many gardeners. Her step-by-step explanation of various techniques makes this task doable for every gardener, including beginners. You'll also find invaluable information in *A Gallery of Roses*, an eye-catching identification guide that boasts more than 100 roses best suited for organic gardening techniques. Each entry in the gallery includes a detailed description of the rose and its best uses, as well as ratings for fragrance, disease susceptibility, and shade tolerance. To round out *Growing Roses Organically*, you'll discover how to incorporate roses into your garden. Wilde dismisses the notion that you need to grow roses in a formal setting and instead presents four garden designs that incorporate roses with everything from perennials and wildflowers to trees and shrubs. Her design do's and don'ts along with winning plant combinations demonstrate how naturally roses fit into the landscape. In sharing her wisdom and experience, Barbara Wilde shows that growing roses doesn't have to be labor-intensive or frustrating. By choosing the right varieties and providing proper care, roses really can be a welcome part of every garden-- including yours.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If the word rose immediately conjures up visions of clouds of chemical sprays combating a host of diseases and hordes of pests, then the concept of organic rose gardening might seem laughable if not impossible. Unfortunately, many gardeners who eschew chemical applications deprive themselves of the joy of rose gardening solely because of perceived high-maintenance care requirements. Fortunately, Wilde comes to the rescue, extolling basic, commonsense methods of gardening that demonstrate the ease and simplicity of an organic approach with these much-admired but often-avoided plants. From genetics to a history of rose breeding, Wilde illustrates how roses have come to be so demanding, setting the framework for selection guidelines for roses that, by their very nature, are ideally suited to less chemically dependent care. Based on her own extensive experience, Wilde's information is exhaustive but eminently accessible: a cornucopia of comprehensive charts, thoughtful tips, and planting pointers, plus an encyclopedia of 100-plus of the best roses for organic gardens, provide all the ammunition necessary to turn rose detractors into rose devotees. Carol HaggasCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

"Finally, a comprehensive rose book that takes the intimidation out of growing roses naturally. This book is a must-- not only for rosarians, but for gardeners everywhere."--G. Michael Shoup, president and owner, The Antique Rose Emporium "Barbara Wilde has compiled a complete approach for growing roses the way we need to, in the real world. This is information that all of us have been wanting-- not just the best organic methods, but also the most worthwhile and productive varieties. She tells us the species that can take care of themselves, the best ancient cultivars, and the very latest in breeding trends."--Rev. Douglas T. Seidel, consultant for the rose collection at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants "I hope gardeners will take advantage of Barbara Wilde's thorough knowledge and experience in growing roses by using this book. Her sensible advice made me realize organic growing practices are at the heart of all the best gardens, not just those meant

for food crops. I was particularly intrigued by her emphasis on the importance of the proper selection of roses and her knowledge of many European hybrids. And with all the work that modern hybridizers have done to increase hardiness and disease resistance in roses, it's well worth the effort to get these roses into our gardens. Wilde doesn't try to tell us there is no work involved with growing good roses but does tell us where to put our energies for a sustainable payback for our efforts."--Saxon Holt, photo director, PhotoBotanic.com, and an award-winning photographer with six books on roses currently in print

I have next to no experience with roses (unless you count the half a dozen or so that I've bought and killed :)). I was fed up with that, and wanted to get roses that didn't require chemicals and fertilizers. I know this book received a negative review (and everyone has a right to their opinion), but, personally, I really like it. I didn't find the directions complicated - quite the opposite in fact. I found it well organized, easy to understand, and comprehensive. Basically, it told me what kind of roses to pick, how to plant them, how to care for them, and what to do if something goes wrong (disease, pest, etc). Just what I wanted. I agree that the selection of roses recommended isn't exactly what I was looking for. However, the reality is that information will change annually anyway. What it gave me was the information that I needed to look online and be able to figure out how to choose a hardy, healthy plant that will last a very long time. I don't know if I will let me post this information :), but check out Heirloom Roses online - they have a great selection of own root plants that are hardy and disease resistant. If they have to block out that name, just Google Buy Rose Plants for a selection of sites (you want the one that starts with H :). Hope this helps you choose.

I think this book, and Liz Druitt's book, are the two essential references to have. I prefer this one because it seems a little more down to earth (!). But both books are accessible and overlap. Both books really go a long way to encouraging the beginner rose grower to understand that organic rose gardening is practical, straightforward, and sensible. In these days of the internet you can find excellent organic liquid fertilizer and any rose you like. Get the organic top soil, compost, and liquid fertilizer (and help with the hole digging!) ahead of ordering your roses, so you'll be ready for them when they arrive. These books will guide you.

This is a practical, pretty, and highly useful book for anyone who wants to smell the roses, especially in climates less temperate than the west coast. The number of roses included is far from encyclopaedic, but for the roses Ms Wilde does include, she reports thoroughly on their disease

susceptibility, growth habit, hardiness, fragrance, and more. In nearly all cases, a gorgeous color photo accompanies. In fact, stripped of its useful information, this book would still be a fine buy for its large color photos. Before the gallery of roses, you'll find clear and helpful instructions about how to prepare for planting and how to accomplish the actual planting. Although the emphasis obviously centers on organic methods, this is a fine general reference on growing roses. The book itself seems reasonably well put together. I haven't spent months poring over it yet, but I do not have the early feeling of dread when a poorly glued book seems ready to fall apart in my hands. Probably part of the reason is that the book is large enough to be helpful, but not so large that its very size works to break it apart. The format, in other words, allows for some large and luscious eye candy, but it is not as big as many modern illustrated gardening books which should really come with their own stands. Photographs, clear drawings, and lucid instructions and descriptions make this book a pleasure to own and and treasure to use.

This book is an outstanding resource not only for rose gardeners, but also for gardeners in general. I learned all sorts of useful facts about growing plants organically. The book is beautifully written and easy to understand. The illustrations are excellent. This book is attractive enough to be given as a gift. Wilde has given us a treasure: her vast experience and great love of gardening.

This was a gift for a friend who is trying to restore his recently deceased mom's rose garden. He loves it.

A great primer for the care of rose bushes. This book provides many tips; how to combat pest problems, proper irrigation, and pruning. An easy read...

This How to grow roses book is excellent because it shows you how to do and how to do not do it. I gave five thumbs up.

I am a big fan of organic gardening, but I just can't agree with the other posters here who've raved about this book. I'm glad it's not the first one I've read on organic gardening or on roses. If it had been, I think I would have given up! Wilde makes it sound entirely too complicated, especially for the typical home gardener. Also, not that many roses are featured, and information on them (fragrance, etc) differs from what I've read elsewhere and/or experienced in my own garden. An OK book, but be sure you read others and go to the excellent site [help me find dot com](http://helpmefind.com) to get some

perspective. Visit local gardens to see what does well. And don't be afraid to experiment in your own garden, keeping it simple as much as possible. If you 1.) choose roses known to do well in your area, 2.) plant them properly making sure they have plenty of sun, food and water, and 3.) cultivate them cleanly, keeping their bases free of fallen leaves and debris - the job is mostly done. ENJOY YOUR ROSES!

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