

Low-Roving Roses

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The fabulously adaptable, flowerful, super-healthy 'Flower Carpet' roses, bred in Europe, brought groundcover roses to gardens from Florida deep into Canada. But they are not the only low spreading/sprawling roses of rugged and often ever-blooming character.

The old time 'Stanwell Perpetual' can grow to 4' high and spread to 8', making a dense thicket of arching canes bearing blush-pink flowers from late spring to frost. Slightly less tall and broad is the popular ever bloomer 'The Fairy', one of the most profusely blooming roses ever. Hybrid musk roses such as 'Ballerina' and 'Mozart' grow about 3.5' high and 6' wide and produce flowers of great fragrance with less sun than other roses.

The 3' x 5' double pink 'Baby Blanket' is rugged despite its delicate appearance, while 18" x 48" 'Red Cascade' is a very vigorous free-flowering miniature rose. Nearly prostrate Japanese 'Nozomi' bears brightest pink single flowers in to mid-summer. For light yellow flowers in summer, there is the 2' x 5' *Rosa pimpinellifolia* 'Repens'. The great favorite 'Sea Foam' grows to the same size but bears sparkling white flowers into autumn.

There are quite a few other roses suited to groundcover use, even a David Austin groundcover rose named 'Lillian Austin', 3' x 4' and bearing big double yellow-orange-pink flowers with great scent. Some of the best catalogs to search for fine groundcover roses are Antique Rose Emporium (9300 Lueckemeyer Road, Brenham, TX 77833; catalog \$5), Pickering Nurseries (670 Kingston Road, Pickering, ON L1V 1A6, Canada; catalog \$3), and Sam Kedem Nursery (12414 191st Street East, Hastings, MN 55033; catalog \$2).