

Amazing Rose Facts

Rose fossil fragments have been found in the United States that date back to the Paleolithic era—more than 32 million years ago, which predate humans. Rose species were naturalized predominantly throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Two roses native to Washington state are: *Rosa nutkana* (Nootka rose) and *Rosa gymnocarpa* (bald-hip rose).

- The world's oldest rose is over one thousand years old and located in Hildesheim, Germany. This climber type rose covers the apse (tower) inside St. Mary's Cathedral.
- Tombstone, Arizona is home to the world's biggest rose. Also a climber type, this white Lady Banks rose, originally planted in 1885, covers an area of 9,000 square feet, with a trunk circumference of 12 feet.
- The proper name for rose thorns is "prickles". Some roses are grown for their colorful large and attractive thorns or "prickles". One such type is *Rosa sericia pteracantha* or 'Wingthorn' rose. Here are some examples of thorns or "prickles" in the Cornwall Rose Garden:



Rosa Rugosa



Electron



Knockout



Fourth of July

- Roses can produce new scents in low gravity conditions. NASA conducted an experiment with a miniature rose aboard the Space Shuttle in 1998. This space research discovered a new fragrance in a weightless environment. The new fragrance marketed by the Shiseido Company is called "Zen" in their line of cologne and perfumes. www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/9-12/.../spacescents_feature.html
- "Pageant of the Rose" by Jean Gordon", page 80
"During World War II when the supply of citrus fruits had been cut off, some of this rose lore proved to be valuable to British chemists. After exhaustive tests they determined that rose hips have a vitamin C content 400 per cent greater than that of oranges. Following this discovery the British government instituted a campaign during the autumn of 1941 that led to one of the greatest medicinal uses of the rose in modern times. In Scotland alone, women and Boy Scouts collected approximately 200 tons of the bitter red fruit of the dog rose, the commonest hedge rose in the British Isles. It has been estimated that this harvest represented 134,000,000 individual hips, which were converted into syrup."