

Did You Know?



Roses, *Rosa* spp.

- Roses have long been called the flower of love and have been linked to the Greek goddess Aphrodite, Roman goddess Venus and other goddesses of love.
- Romans who believed roses symbolized love, beauty, purity and passion, incorporated them into daily living, from petals in bath water, home décor to strewing on banquet floors.
- Rose fossils discovered in the United States date back approximately 30-35 million years.
- Cultivation of roses dates back to the fifth century in China, Asia, and the Mediterranean regions.
- Monks grew roses for medicinal purposes in the Middle Ages.
- Ever heard the term *sub rosa*, associated with secrecy? It is a Roman term meaning under the rose, which comes from the practice of hanging roses in rooms or doorways where meetings were held.
- Beads made from cooked and mashed rose petals and hand rolled originated in India as prayer beads. Christian monks adopted the practice and the term “rosary” was coined in the fifteenth century.
- Rose hips are high in Vitamin C and add a tart flavor to tea