

SOUTHWEST

PRESENTED BY THE ALBUQUERQUE ROSE SOCIETY

Local Conditions

The Albuquerque area is usually sunny and windy with very little rain, averaging about 9.5 inches yearly. This is about 38 percent less than the average for the state and about 76 percent less than the national average. Rain is either an annoying spritz on your dusty windshield or a deluge. Snow is usually gone by the next day. Winters are cold, especially during January and February, with 40s during the day and 20s at night. It is not unusual for nights to be below zero; sometimes well below zero. Spring and fall are mild, and summers are hot. Roses bloom most bountifully in May, rest during the summer heat (or bake on the bush), and bloom again in fall, sometimes until November.

We garden in Zone 7 and Zone 6. Our gardens are planted on foothills of decomposing granite, sandy me-

sas, and a historically agricultural river valley, all at about one mile in elevation. All areas have a layer of hardpan (caliche) at some depth below the surface. Both soil and water are alkaline, with pH at 7 or higher. Soil has abundant phosphorus and potas-

sium but can lack iron and always needs nitrogen. Main pests in our area include aphids, thrips, spider mites, deer, and gophers. Powdery mildew is the most frequent disease. Blackspot sometimes comes in on new roses but has not become common. The most important thing to do for roses in our area is water. Surprising to some people is the need to water during

winter; more roses are lost to insufficient water than to cold.

Winter protection (done in Nov.) includes mounding up the base of the plant and mulching the surrounding area to prevent damage from frequent freeze-thaw cycles.

We usually cut back long canes so they don't break in the wind. New roses don't appear at local nurseries until April or May, but bare root roses, whether bought locally or by mail, need protection from cold and wind, and of course, water.

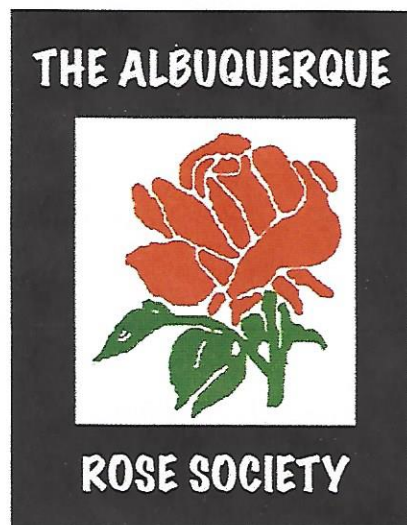
Meet the Albuquerque Rose Society

The Albuquerque Rose Society, founded in 1948, held their first rose show in 1949, and planted the city's first public rose garden in 1954. In those days, their activities were prominently featured in the local newspaper, where photos show the members in pearls, hats, white shirts, and ties. We still have rose shows every year and a small, dedicated team tends the 1100 roses in our public garden.

The Albuquerque Rose Society's Rose Shows and Exhibition include the Spring Rose Show, a nationally judged show in May at the Albuquerque Garden Center, which allows members to compete for awards for the best roses, rose arrangements, and rose photo-



Members of the summer work crew at the Albuquerque Rose Garden



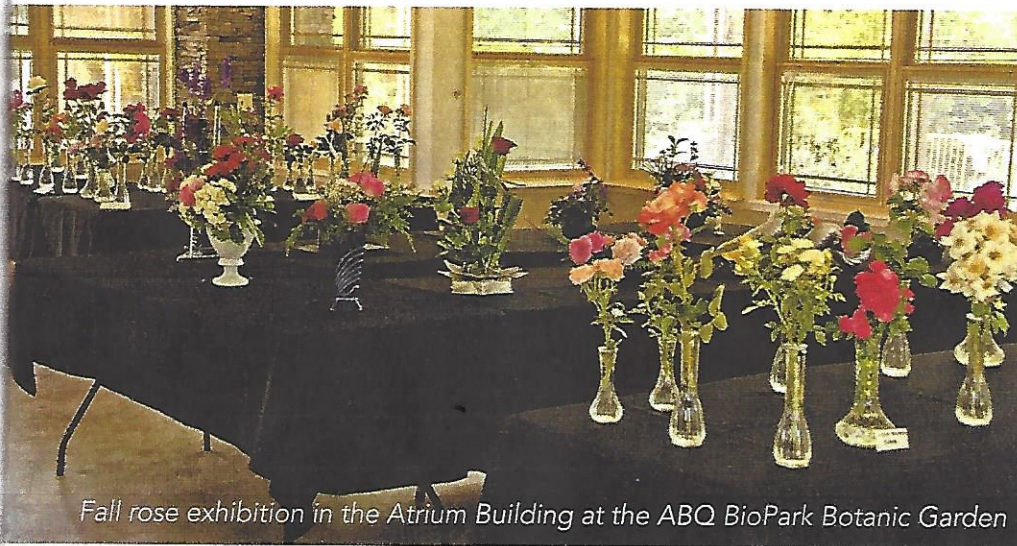
OPPOSITE, RIGHT: North side beds in the Albuquerque Rose Garden

graphs. Flower Shows at the New Mexico State Fair in Sept. provide more opportunities to show roses and to compete for the special State Fair awards. A rose exhibition at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden in the fall allows visitors an "up close" opportunity to see roses they can grow in their own gardens.

Our mission is sharing our knowledge of roses that grow well in our area and how to care for them. Our best showcase is the Albuquerque Rose Garden, where we demonstrate pruning to the public every March.

Rose Gardens in Albuquerque

The Albuquerque Rose Garden is the third planted and tended by members of the Albuquerque Rose Society. In its current location since the 1960s, it is located southwest of the intersection of Wyoming and Menaul, behind a shopping center called Hoffmantown. The garden is always open and free to the public. It surrounds the Tony Hillerman Library — the only library in the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County system that is surrounded by a rose garden!



Fall rose exhibition in the Atrium Building at the ABQ BioPark Botanic Garden

Another public garden where visitors see how wonderfully roses grow in Albuquerque is the Albuquerque Botanic Garden, located between Old Town and the Rio Grande at the Albuquerque BioPark.

The High Desert Rose Garden that opened in 2015 is just one of several rose gardens. The Travel Channel ranked the Albuquerque BioPark's Botanic Garden one of the best botanical gardens in the U.S. Tripadvisor's "Holiday Lettings" website lists it as one of the top 20 in the World!

Growing Roses in Albuquerque is a booklet developed and printed by the Society that gives gardeners an excellent guide to care and selection of the best roses for our climate and growing conditions. Our annual calendar features photos that were award winners at our recent rose shows, plus monthly rose care reminders.

Upcoming Events

- Monthly meetings, 2nd Wednesday, Feb. through May;
- Pruning Demonstrations at the Albuquerque Rose Garden each weekend in Mar.;
- Annual Spring Rose Show, May 20-21.

