



Kordes Rose Trial Progress Report
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Summary

In October 2011, an 80-rose trial was planted in a new plot established at Kirby Park in San Angelo, TX. The roses were given one year to establish and now are evaluated each month for three years to determine hardiness, beauty and other factors. The results will be used to teach and encourage water conservation and use of Earth-Kind principles in the community, as well as select hardy rose varieties to be recommended for homeowners and landscapers in the area.

Objective

The goal of this study is to teach local homeowners, landscapers and nurserymen that EarthKind practices can be successfully used to grow attractive, valuable plants. The data gathered will also be used to determine which of the varieties planted will be the most successful and attractive for use in local landscapes.

Materials and Methods

20 rose varieties were selected from the Kordes Rose breeding company. The company has not used pesticides on their breeding stock for 15 years, and therefore released varieties are anticipated to have pest tolerance. The roses were purchased from Chamblee's Rose Company in Tyler, Texas in 3 gallon containers. Four weeks prior to planting, the roses were pruned down to 6 inches to reduce transplant shock.

The 20 varieties were planted in a randomized block design, replicated 4 times for a total of 80 roses in 4 blocks. Each block is one long curved planting bed, and roses were spaced 7.5 feet apart along the bed. Each bed is 150 feet long and 10 feet wide. Beds were spaced 10 feet apart. Holes were dug using a tractor with a 9" augur, drip irrigation was installed, and mulch applied using a mulch blower. The plants will be irrigated once per week during establishment, then irrigation needs will be re-evaluated based on weather conditions. Drip tubing used was Netafim 0.9gpa with 12" spacing. Two rows were applied along either side of the roses, spaced 1 foot apart. No pesticides or fertilizers will be applied to the roses, and no pruning will be done.

Each month, the agent evaluates each plant with a data collection form that includes percentage leaf drop, overall condition of foliage, number of blooms, and other factors such as presence of disease and insect pests. At the end of the growing season, the size of each plant was measured in inches.

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