

# Ground Cover Roses

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Many people think that roses require lots of care and special handling and that they are not very hardy. However some of the new breeding that has gone on with roses is quite the contrary. Some roses are now being bred to be on their own root stock so if the top dies back the regrowth will be the rose you planted. Also these ground cover type roses are being bred to be very disease resistant, drought resistant and can stand up to high levels of salt. All of these traits are very beneficial for growing in Wyoming.

Let us look at some of these ground cover type roses. “Flower Carpet® AMBER” is one of those roses. It has a USDA Zone 4, the flowers start off a light yellow orange and developing some pink or peachy color. The flowers are about 2 inches across and the rounded shape is around 30 inches high and 36 inches wide. The dark green glossy foliage contrasts nicely with the flowers and only needs to be cut back to a foot high in the winter.

The “Flower Carpet® Pink Supreme” has a rich pink bloom with the glossy bright green foliage. The 2 inch flowers are on a very compact dense plant that grows 24 inches height and 40 inches wide. Again this USDA Zone 4 rose can be pruned back to about one foot high in the winter.

“Flower Carpet® SCARLET” has those 2 inch red scarlet blooms. This USDA Zone 4 rose is also very winter hardy. This low compact dense rose grows 30 inches high and 40 inches wide and also has that dark glossy green leaves. Use the same pruning as the above mentioned roses.

Another series of roses to look for are the “Drift” roses. These roses are a cross between a traditional ground cover rose and a miniature rose getting the toughness of the ground cover type and the well managed size and repeat blooming characteristics. The “Coral Drift®” Rose has bright coral colored blooms and grows to 18 inches high and 30 inches wide. It is also very winter hardy (USDA Zone 4) and very disease resistant.

The “Red Drift®” rose has very small bright colored red flowers and is USDA Zone 4 rated. This rose is also 18 inches tall and 30 inches wide. This is also a very disease resistant rose which would work very well in smaller locations like rock walls or edgings.

The “Sweet Drift®” rose is the same size of the previous two and has a very nice pink color. This rose has won several awards in 2013 and 2014 in different trials around the country and is also a USDA Zone 4 rated.

The “Sunny Knock Out®” rose has a nice fragrance to go along with the medium sized bright yellow flower color which transcends to a creamy pastel color contrasted with the glossy green leaves. This USDA Zone 4 rated rose has a 3 foot height and width.

So do not be afraid of adding a ground cover rose to your landscaping design these are tough low maintenance roses that are hardy and very disease resistant. These roses will need some protection the first winter but after that should do just fine and provide that spring to fall color that we all will enjoy.

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