

ROSE FRAGRANCE

Always try to smell the rose before you buy it, especially if you have very limited space available in your garden. This is especially important if you intend to make potpourri with the petals.

The older varieties of roses usually have a stronger scent. A description in a catalog might sound like a mouthwatering fragrance, but the smell might not appeal to you at all. This is to be expected. We don't all buy the same perfume.

At times, a rose is listed as having a combination of scents, such as Citrus and Rose, or Honey and Iris, or Lemon and Spice. Iris, by the way, has a "grapey" smell.

The scent of roses can be categorized as:

- **CITRUS**: Lemon, Lime, Mandarin Orange, Orange, or Tangerine
- **FLORAL**: Almond Blossom, Antique Rose, Apple Blossom, Carnation, Clover, Damask Rose, Eglantine Rose, Gallica Rose, Honeysuckle, Iris, Lilac, Lily of the Valley, Marigold, Mimosa, Nasturtium, Old Rose, Primrose, Sweet Pea, Violet, or White Hyacinth
- **FRUITY**: Apple, Apricot, Berry, Currant, Grape, Green Apple, Melon, Nectarine, Papaya, Peach, Raspberry, or Strawberry (and even Strawberry Pie)
- **SPICY**: Anise, Bay, Cinnamon, Clove, Ginger, Licorice, Myrrh, Orris, or Vanilla
- **OTHER SCENTS**: Cotton Candy Scent, Expensive Perfume, Face Cream, Fern, Fresh, Fresh Cut Grass, Honey, Linseed Oil, Moss, Musk, Parsley, Pine, Sauterne Wine, Sharp, Sugary, Sweet, Tea, Woodsy, or Yeasty

If this doesn't make your mouth water, well, it should! Many years ago, ladies would make tea out of the petals of roses. Just immerse the blooms in boiling water, and let them steep for five minutes. And a wee bit of honey does no harm. **ROSE BLOSSOM TEA** seems to have a calming effect.

POTPOURRI made a resurgence back in the 1970's and 80's. It has since waned in popularity, which is a shame since it's so easy to make:

2 cups dried rose petals, preferably pink or red

2 teaspoons orange peel

2 teaspoons whole cloves

Half of a crushed cinnamon stick

4 to 6 drops rose essential oil

½ teaspoon powdered orris root

Stir well to combine. Put in a tightly sealed glass jar. Stir after 24 hours. Gently shake the contents every few days. Let the mixture sit at least 2 weeks before using. Always reseal the jar after each use.

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