

Production of roses in South Africa

Origin

The major rose-producing countries of the world include The Netherlands, Colombia, Kenya, Israel, Italy, United States, and Japan. Considering only the Dutch flower auctions, 3 243 million cut rose stems were marketed in 2007 and 3 415 million stems were marketed during 2008. Cultivars and hybrids are all widely grown for their beauty and often are fragrant.

Description

The rose is a woody perennial of the genus *Rosa*, within the family Rosaceae. There are more than a hundred species and thousands of cultivars. They form a group of plants that can be utilized as shrubs, climbing or trailing with plants with stems that are often armed with sharp thorns. The flowers vary in size and shape and are usually large and showy. Colours range from white through yellows and reds. It is one of the leading cut flowers in the global floriculture trade and is used at almost every event in both local and international markets. Rose plants range in size from compact, miniature roses, to climbers that can reach 7 m in length. Different species hybridise easily, and this has been used in the development of the wide range of garden roses.

Production areas in South Africa

Roses are produced in the Western Cape (Cape Town), Free State (Bloemfontein), Gauteng (Pretoria North).

Temperature requirements

The optimal temperature for spore germination is between 10 0C and 18 0C. Germination does not take place at temperatures below 5 0C and the spores are killed off when temperatures are above 27 0C. Spores survive on dried, fallen leaves for as long as one month.

Soil type

Roses do best in full sun and well-drained soil. Companions act as living mulches, lightly shading the soil round the roots of roses and keeping them cool as well as suppressing weeds. Roses are planted in autumn (March-May).

Water requirements

According to Ludwig's Roses Catalogue, roses should be watered every third day for 2 or 3 weeks or daily with an automatic irrigation system. It further states that once the soil has settled after two to three weeks, the basin has to be leveled, mulched (the bed) and watered, using sprinkler irrigation.

Fertilisation

According to Ludwig's Rose Care (www.ludwigroses.co.za), regular fertilisation of roses during the growing season is essential and plants react promptly to additional nutrition. Roses are often burned by placing too much fertiliser in heap close to the main stem or sprinkling it in a narrow circle round the plant. Fertiliser is only of use after it has been dissolved by water and carried to the roots, which are basically confined to the space in the rose bed or hole in which they were planted.

Uses

In the past, flowers were grown only for social functions or to prepare products such as rose water, rose jam, or perfume but currently roses production can be a potential enterprise for farmers wishing to diverge from traditional agriculture into non-traditional, high-value floricultural crops. There are an increasing number of florists' shops, that are selling roses in different forms like bouquets, garlands, bracelets, etc.

Acknowledgements

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References

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- www.wikipedia.com Production of roses. Accessed on October 2014



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