



**FYN Garden Q & A Series**

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**Yards & Neighborhoods**



**FYN Topic: ‘Earth Kind’ Shrub Roses are Low Maintenance**

**Question:** What would be an easy care rose adapted for SW Florida?  
 —Madeline from North Ft Myers

**Answer:** Our hot and humid weather and sandy, drought-prone soil makes growing any type of rose bush a challenge. Those who like traditional, long-stem rose varieties with large flowers and big fragrance should choose traditional favorites (examples: Belinda’s Dream, Mr. Lincoln, Don Juan, etc.) grafted onto the ‘Fortuniana’ rootstock. Roses grafted on this rootstock grow larger and faster thanks to a more vigorous root system.

For other gardeners wanting low maintenance rose care, Antique or newly released ‘Earth Kind’ shrub roses work best. A few names: Knock Out® (Rosa ‘Radrazz’), Double Knock Out® (Rosa ‘Radtko’) or five other ‘Knock-Outs’ roses work. This series has significantly improved disease resistance but lacks fragrance. Another rose series useful here has fragrance. The Drift® series (coral, pink, red and several other colors) all are produced from a rose cross made between a larger, stockier rose variety and a miniature rose.



Don Juan Rose on Wall



Shrub Rose—  
 “Summer Snow”



Knock Out®  
 Rosa ‘Radrazz’

**Useful Links**

- <http://www.floridayards.org>
- <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
- <http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing [Extgardener@leegov.com](mailto:Extgardener@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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