

	Garden Q & A
	Stephen H. Brown



Topic: Non-Grafted Rootstock Roses do Best

Question: What's your opinion on planting Fortuniana roses?
Nel, email

Answer: Fortuniana is not a rose but the rootstock for mostly cultivars of hybrid teas and grandifloras. The desired rose is grafted onto the Fortuniana rootstock to improve resistance to nematodes and soil borne diseases. However, the above ground portion of the plant is still very susceptible to the ravage of our south Florida climate. Common diseases include black spots, Cercospora leaf spots, powdery and downy mildews plus a plethora of insect pests. Consider planting roses that are better adapted to South Florida conditions; roots, stems and leaves, and require no grafted rootstock.



Florida roses in December

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by e-mailing brownsh@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml>. For native plants click on Publications A-Z.

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