

# year-round SPLENDOUR

Rose gardens can present familiar challenges, but this month's small garden design was the unique answer to one rose grower's budding delight

**A**s garden queens, roses are dramatic beauties and can stand alone, but consider what remains in sight when roses are pruned. Visually, the garden should not 'fall flat' when roses are not at their peak. To ensure that the garden remains beautiful even when the roses are recovering, make use of a striking focal point and a strong ground pattern. Attractive under planting such as a colourful groundcover makes a big difference too. This month's featured garden puts these principles to the test.

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## the CHALLENGE

- Create a dedicated space where the owner can display his roses best and within which they are easy to maintain.
- Make the space elegant and attractive throughout the year.

## the SOLUTION

A formal ground pattern provides an excellent framework for the rose lover's collection, and the choice of a classic shape as the foundation echoes the timeless character of roses.

## SETTING THE SCENE

The classic outline of the space is the master key to the design of this month's garden. We traced the edges of the beds in a sandstone cobble edging, which strengthens the pattern and contains the gravel pebbles that form the pathways. The choice of material for the edging is visually undemanding to allow the roses to take centre stage.

## CENTRAL TIME

A central island houses a Victorian-style gazebo positioned over an old-fashioned sundial. The garden pivots around this central aspect and engages the attention effectively in the off-season. Gravel paths allow easy access to all the bushes and also permit a casual stroll to enjoy the fragrance and to admire the blooms up close.

A *Syzygium* hedge screens off part of the garden, creating a dedicated and notable space.



## Make use of a striking focal point and a strong ground pattern

Top right: Miniature varieties, Amoretta and Kayla, make a good combination.

Right: Iceberg Burgundy and Iceberg.

Below: Climbing rose, Angela.



## Within a simple design framework, an abundance of colour can easily be accommodated



Above: Iceberg Burgundy and Iceberg.

Right: A bright explosion of Yellow Festival.

Below left: Hybrid Tea rose, Alleluia.

Below middle: The gorgeous Addo Heritage.

Below right: Warm and inviting South Africa.



## COLOUR PALETTE

The rose keeper of this garden wanted to enjoy all the roses he loves, which bloom in many different colours. Within a simple design framework, an abundance of colour can easily be accommodated without creating a restless feel. It would have worked equally well to plant contrasting groups or blocks in one colour, or simply different shades of the same colour. This aspect of rose garden design is very personal and choices are mostly made on the basis of specific features and personal sentiment.

## practical POINTERS

- It is vital to allow air to flow freely between rose bushes – they perform best when they are not crowded.
- Adequate and practical access to every bush makes regular maintenance and picking the blooms easy and enjoyable.
- Roses flourish when their roots are kept cool. Peanut shells, bark shavings, crushed nutshells or even peach pips make an attractive and effective mulching layer.
- It is preferable to water slightly less often but more at a time. Watering on a consistent schedule is better than an erratic one. 🌿



**TOP TIP OF THE MONTH**  
Regular rose care keeps long-term rose maintenance easy. It is much simpler to pre-empt problems than to try to treat them – prevention is better than cure!



## PLANT LIST

1. Hybrid Tea roses
2. Viola seedling
3. *Agapanthus praecox*
4. *Syzygium paniculatum*

