



# *American Rose Society*

*~Since 1892~*

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Dear Consulting Rosarians:

The American Rose Society is positioned to take a lead role in a major research initiative to identify hybrid tea roses that may be grown with a minimum of care. We are privileged to partner with Louisiana State University and Texas A&M University in this project. The trials will take place on the grounds of the American Rose Center in Shreveport.

ARS member and lead researcher on the project, Claude Graves, after consultation with Baldo Villegas, Consulting Rosarian Committee Chairman, sends the attached letter and survey for your consideration.

We all hope you will join us as participants in this groundbreaking research. Please complete the attached survey and mail or email it directly to Claude Graves, so your valuable input can be considered. Claude's various addresses are noted on his correspondence for your use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Ware". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jeff Ware, Executive Director

Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research  
Consulting Rosarian Participation Request

From: Claude Graves, [claudio.graves@att.net](mailto:claudio.graves@att.net)  
Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research Coordinator

The American Rose Society is positioned to be the leader in an exciting new scientific research program to identify the easiest-to-grow, most environmentally responsible, hybrid tea roses. The recognition and publicity that will be garnered for ARS nationally will also be of great benefit to hundreds of local rose societies.

The American Rose Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, headquarters of the American Rose Society, will be the primary test site for a four-year, random replicated block, field research study to identify the most disease-resistant hybrid tea roses. LSU AgCenter in conjunction with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Texas A&M System will conduct the research. Many of you are familiar with the EarthKind™ rose research conducted by Dr Steve George of Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The Easy-Tea (trademark applied for) hybrid tea rose research is the logical follow-on to the EarthKind™ program.

The EarthKind™ roses, which are extremely low care, have created thousands of successful new rose growers. The Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research is designed to provide the pathway for these new rose enthusiasts to take the next step of growing hybrid teas roses which will require only little more care than the EarthKind™ roses. The Easy-Tea hybrid tea rose cultivars identified in this new test program will give these budding new rosarians a list of scientifically tested, easy to grow, hybrid tea rose cultivars along with a proven, low environmental impact, minimal fungicide program with which to care for them. The Easy-Tea hybrid tea roses will provide a bridge for local rose societies to transition the successful EarthKind rose growers into members who grow more beautiful, but somewhat more challenging roses.

Bringing even a small percentage of the thousands of new “EarthKind™ rosarians” into local rose societies is among the most immediate ways to increase the membership and vitality of your local society and the American Rose Society.

The most critical aspect affecting the success or failure of the rose research will be the selection of the cultivars to be tested. The number of cultivars tested will be very limited. It is imperative that the selection of the candidate cultivars for trial is very careful and thorough in order to insure the most disease and pest resistant roses with the highest potential for success are tested.

I am requesting assistance from all ARS Consulting Rosarians to make recommendations of hybrid tea rose cultivars to be considered for inclusion in the research. A special Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Research page will be added to the online Roses in Review on the ARS website for the purpose of nominating rose cultivars for consideration. Data from past Roses in Review will also be included in the evaluation process.

Supplemental to the on-line Roses in Review Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Research recommendation page I am also attaching with this letter a printed form for your use to nominate cultivars to be considered for testing. The form can be duplicated as required and emailed or USPS mailed to me for inclusion into the analysis database. Please fill out the forms accurately to the best of your ability. Of particular interest, will be the pest control practices of the person growing the rose. Obviously, the most pertinent data will be from persons that grow roses with little or no routine pest control practices.

Ideally, we would like to test a broad spectrum of hybrid tea cultivars to include some of the old tried and true varieties, along with some of the more recent introductions. Please do not hesitate to recommend newer varieties you feel have exceptional disease resistance.

Please be aware of the fact that we are not looking for hybrid tea roses that NEVER get blackspot. We are looking for roses that when infected have the natural ability to simply drop a minimal number of leaves and recover without intervention from the grower. Also be aware that at this time the study will focus primarily on blackspot as that is the more common problem nationally. Pending the success of this initial study we anticipate additional trials in the future at other locations to evaluate other more regional problems such as Rust on the west coast.

I appreciate your help in gathering the data to be used to select the hybrid tea roses to be evaluated. Please be sure to confer with the “natural” rose growers in your society for their experiences. Please note that the Recommendation Form provides a way for you to recommend varieties grown by others as long as the grower is well known to you and you have personally observed his/her garden.

We thank you for your personal involvement in this exciting project. Your participation in this research will be a great service to the American Rose Society and to the future of your local rose society.

Sincerely,

Claude Graves  
Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Research Coordinator

# Easy-Tea Hybrid Tea Rose Trial Recommendation Form

## Disease-Resistant Hybrid Tea Roses

**Return to:**

Claude Graves - 2204 Canyon Creek Plaza - Richardson, TX 75080 - [claudegraves@att.net](mailto:claudegraves@att.net)

This information is requested to develop a list of extremely low maintenance Hybrid Tea roses to be evaluated in a scientific rose trial at the American Rose Center to identify the easiest to grow hybrid tea roses. Varieties selected for trial will be grown with only a very minimal fungicide spray regime and no insecticides.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

ARS District \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if these recommendations are for roses you personally grow, or are grown by another grower personally known to you: Grown by Myself \_\_\_ Grown by Others \_\_\_

**Complete the information below for the GROWER of the roses recommended on this form (use a separate form for each different grower).**

Soil Type: Sandy / Acidic \_\_\_ Clay / Alkaline \_\_\_ Approx. pH (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you EVER use - Fungicides: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Insecticides: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If so, how frequently on average during the growing season?

Fungicides: every week \_\_\_ , every 2 weeks \_\_\_ , once a month \_\_\_ ,  
3 times or less per year \_\_\_ , rarely, only in extreme situations \_\_\_  
What Fungicide(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Insecticides: every week \_\_\_ , every 2 weeks \_\_\_ , once a month \_\_\_ ,  
3 times or less per year \_\_\_ , rarely, only in extreme situations \_\_\_  
What Insecticides(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please rate each recommended cultivar from 1 (worst) to 10 (best) for blackspot resistance**

<b><u>Hybrid Tea Rose Variety:</u></b>	<b><u>Rating</u></b>	<b><u>Comments:</u></b>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____

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