

“Basic Rose Terminology” rose.org Educational Article (ARS website) by Jolene Adams

- **Anther** – The upper portion of a stamen which contains the pollen sacs.
- **Apical Meristem** – Non-maturing cells located at the tips of shoots and roots which produce the plant hormone auxin.
- **Auricle** – The ‘ear-like’ projection found on the tip of the stipule.
- **Auxin** – a plant hormone that regulates the bloom cycle for rose buds.
- **Axil** – the angle on the upper side where the leaf and stem join.
- **Axillary** – A term applied to buds or branches occurring in the axil of a leaf. These buds begin to grow after pruning or deadheading.
- **Bark** – The outer layer of the stem of a rose.
- **Bud** – An embryonic shoot that may eventually produce either flowers or foliage.
- **Bud Union** – That area between the roots and the stems where the bud of the desired variety was grafted onto the rootstock.
- **Bract** – A leaf unlike the ordinary leaves which is usually smaller or of a different shape, growing from the peduncle just below the flower.
- **Calyx** – The first of a series of flower parts growing from the peduncle, composed of sepals, usually green and leaf-like.
- **Cane** – The stem of a rose, either the main stem (which then becomes the trunk) or lateral stems or branches.
- **Carpel** – An organ bearing ovules along its margins; part of a compound pistil.
- **Compound Leaf** – A leaf composed of two or more parts or leaflets. Rose leaves are pinnately compound.
- **Corolla** – The second of a series of flower parts growing from the peduncle, composed of petals.
- **Double** – Referring to how many petals the rose has – usually between 25 and 45.
- **Filament** – The stalk of the stamen which supports the anther.
- **Floral Tube** – A cup-like structure formed by the fusion of the basal parts of the sepals, petals and stamens. Don't call it a ‘calyx tube.’
- **Fruit** – A ripe ovary containing seeds and any adjacent parts.
- **Hip** – The fruit of the rose which contains the seeds.
- **Leaf** – An organ arising laterally from superficial tissues of a shoot apex. It is usually flat and may be simple or compound.
- **Leaf Scar** – A mark left on the stem where the leaf detaches. There is a bud just above each leaf scar.
- **Meristem** – Tissue composed of cells that do not mature, but remain capable of further growth and division. Present in growing tips.
- **Mixed Buds** – Buds that produce both leaves and flowers; usual type of bud on roses; present in leaf axils.
- **Ovary** – The swollen basal portion of the pistil containing the ovules or seeds.
- **Ovule** – A structure containing the embryo sac, nucellus, integuments and stalk. After fertilization this develops into seeds.
- **Peduncle** – The main stem of a an individual flower or of a spray.
- **Pedicel** – The stem of an individual flower in a spray.
- **Perianth** – The collective term for the calyx and corolla (sepals and petals) combined.
- **Petal** – One of the units of the corolla of the flower. Roses have from four to over 100 petals, depending on the variety.
- **Petaloid** – A transitional phase between petals and stamens.
Petaloids are visible in single and semi-double roses as deformed-looking petals in the center of the rose.
- **Petiole** – The stalk of the leaf.
- **Petiolum** – A subdivision of the petiole which connects the lateral leaflets to the petiole.
- **Pistil** – The central organ of the flower composed of one or more carpels and enclosing the ovules.
- **Pith** – The soft inner portion of a rose stem.
- **Pollen** – The granules within the pollen sacs containing genetic information used for sexual reproduction.
- **Prickle** – A spine-like superficial outgrowth of the stem. Roses have prickles, not ‘thorns.’
- **Roots** – The underground parts of the rose used for support and to absorb water and nutrients.
- **Rootstock** – The cultivated roots of a rose which will be implanted with a bud from another variety (grafting).
- **Semi-double** – Referring to how many petals the rose has – usually 12 to 25.
- **Sepal** – One of the units of the calyx. These are the green coverings of a flower bud that open to reveal the petals of the rose.
Roses usually have 5 sepals.
- **Single** – Referring to how many petals the rose has – usually four to eight.
- **Spray** – Several flowers buds which arise from one peduncle and develop into many flowers on short pedicels.
- **Stamen** – The organ of the flower producing pollen, composed of an anther and a filament.
- **Stigma** – The top of the pistil, the part that receives the pollen grains.
- **Stipule** – A leaf appendage that is usually present in roses on the petiole where it meets the stem.
- **Style** – The part of the pistil that connects the ovary and the stigma.
- **Terminal** – A term applied to buds occurring at the end of branches. The end or tip.
- **Thorn** – A branch of a plant that becomes woody, hard and pointed. Cactus plants have thorns, locust trees have thorns.
Rose do NOT have thorns as the ‘prickles’ on a rose do not develop from ‘branch’ tissue.
- **Trunk** – The main stem of a rose, the cane that later produces all the side branches or lateral canes.
- **Vegetative Bud** – A bud that produces only leaves and never flowers. Roses do NOT have vegetative buds.

