

'MADE IN THE SHADE'

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Most roses need five or more hours of light a day; however, there are many rose varieties that do well in filtered shade and three to four hours of sun. I've found that many of the old garden roses, hybrid musks, climbers and some of the modern English roses do well in partial shade conditions. Of the old garden roses, almost all of the alba roses will take shade. Alba roses are tall, one-time bloomers that are very hardy and disease-resistant with colors ranging from white to pastel shades of pink. Gallicas form another class of one-time bloomers including some that are shade tolerant. Polyanthas roses are compact, ever-blooming and are the predecessors of the modern floribundas.

Hybrid musks as a class are noted for their disease resistance and shade tolerance. 'Lavender Lassie', 'Ballerina' and 'Felicia' are among those I would recommend. 'Lavender Lassie' is covered in buds with just a few hours of morning sun. 'Ballerina' has delicate single blooms that appear in large clusters like a hydrangea and repeat well and 'Felicia' has dainty apricot-pink blooms with a nice scent, in partial shade.

English roses are modern roses bred to combine good repeat bloom with the form and fragrance of an old garden rose. A few of these will tolerate shade, such as 'Fair Bianca', a short bush with cupped white blooms; 'Tamora' a short apricot; 'Abraham Darby', a tall-growing apricot pink; and 'Bow Bells', a medium-pink cupped bloom. The floribunda 'Gruss an Aachen' also does very well in shade.

Finally, there are many climbers that will take shade. The ones I grow in partial shade are 'Mme Alfred Carriere' a white noisette, 'Zephirine Drouhin', a soft pink large-flowered climber, and 'New Dawn', another soft pink large-flowered climber.

Adaptability is often the name of the game in roses. So if you find your garden offers a less-than-ideal amount of sun-light, consider these made-in-the-shade options.

(Pictures of these roses are shown in the January 2000 issue of The American Rose magazine.)