



Francis Roses Tour

8990 E. Milligan Road / Eloy, Arizona
Program Begins: January 11, 2025 10:00 AM



Rosarians spend hours in their gardens tending to their roses without thinking about where their rose may have originated. Mesa East Valley Rose Society (MEVRS) will seek to help its membership better understand how we get our roses by sponsoring a tour of Francis Roses in Eloy, Arizona, on January 11 at 10:00. If you have a rose bush in your garden, it probably came from Francis Roses. The farm tour will replace MEVRS's regularly scheduled January meeting.

Nearly 75 percent of all rose bushes are started in Arizona. Our desert landscape and temperature consistency make our state the prime location to produce new roses commercially. Arizona has four major producers, and Francis Roses owns the largest market share. The business sells its early growth rose bushes to nurseries and wholesalers throughout the United States and Canada.

"We get 360 days of sun a year. We know when it's going to be hot, we know when it's going to be cold, we know when it's going to rain," said Tyler Francis, a fourth-generation farmer. "Everything here is irrigated, and we're able to control how much fertilizer is going out. So, creating these nice microclimates for these plants to grow is really easy."

Mesa East Valley Rose Society
P.O. Box 40394 Mesa, Arizona 85274-0394

Subject: Francis Roses Tour



One benefit to being an Arizona rose grower is we can have roses in the spring and fall and even blooming at Christmas (just look outside and see the blooms on your shrubs).

Roses are often thought to be finicky according to urban legend. However, according to Francis you don't need to be a professional to grow great roses. "They're very, very hardy plants. If you give them a little bit of love and attention - and you water them."

Francis Roses grows a significant number of roses on 400 acres and harvests more than eight million units annually. The farm generates the same revenue as it could with 15,000 acres of cotton.

At any given time, Francis Roses grows about 400 varieties of roses and evaluates another 400 to 600 more varieties to determine their disease resistance, fragrance, and color.

The farm has also invested a substantial amount of time and effort to develop, and use, a propriety fertilizer and other products to help maintain moisture in the soil. No small concern in the Central Arizona desert.

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It is suggested that MEVRS and interested community members consider carpooling to Eloy for the Francis Roses tour. The distance between MCC and Francis Roses is approximately 71 miles, and it's anticipated to take about 1 hour and 15 minutes to drive between the sites. Francis Roses is located at 8990 E. Milligan Road, Eloy, AZ.

The tour is a great educational opportunity that will benefit all MEVRS members. Put the date on your calendar and start planning your carpool. Also, please let Sherman Weekes shermanweekes@gmail.com know you are planning to attend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Sherman Weekes, President
shermanweekes@gmail.com
Mesa East Valley Rose Society
1833 W. Southern Avenue
Mesa, Arizona 85202
Webpage: <https://roses4az-mevrs.org/>

Francis Roses
8990 E. Milligan Road
Eloy, Arizona 85131
Webpage: <https://francisroses.com/>