

## 'Nearly Wild' Floribunda Rose - *Rosa 'Nearly Wild'*

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The 'nearly wild' rose is another fantastic blooming floribunda rose that provides color spring through first frost. It looks like a compact wild rose, hence the name, but is disease resistant and a repeat bloomer. It may get its hybrid name because it closely resembles the wild variety in appearance and form. The flowers consist of five single petals, are bright pink with white centers and yellow stamens with a faint apple fragrance. The foliage is dark green with red highlights and small pointed buds.



'Nearly Wild' grows best in well-drained, slightly acidic loam. It requires full sun for maximum disease resistance and blooming, but can tolerate some shade.

Make sure it gets good air movement, which promotes strong healthy growth and controls foliar diseases, such as blackspot. Use mulch to protect the crown in the winter, helps maintain moisture and keeps roots cooler in the summer. This is a particularly spectacular and functional rose for the landscape because it makes a tidy compact plant about 3 feet high and 2 feet wide and does not sucker. Water deeply and regularly (mornings are best), and avoid overhead watering. Unlike other roses, deadheading is optional. It encourages re-bloom, but it does not require constant maintenance. Prune as needed in late winter to early spring. Additional cultural practices: remove diseased leaves from plants, and clean up and destroy dead leaves around the shrubs both during the growing season and during winter dormancy.

Use 'Nearly Wild' as a small specimen for a small area, or low, informal hedge or border, if planted closely together. Use in cottage gardens for a natural look or foundations in rose gardens. Since it's almost constantly in bloom, it's an excellent rose for mass planting.

Although 'Nearly Wild' is disease resistant, some pest problems are common in roses and include: aphids, scale, thrips, rose midges, leafhoppers, and spider mites. Use any control method labeled for use on Floribunda roses. Fertilize with rose food to promote blooming and plant health; one feeding in spring and another in early fall. Hardy from USDA Zones 4 to 9.

**Interesting Tidbits:** Dr. Walter D. Brownell introduced this modern cluster-flowering Floribunda Rose in 1941 by crossing the large flowered wichuraiana climber, 'Dr. W. Van Fleet' (1910) with 'Leuchtstern' a climbing Polyantha (1899).