



MD ANDERSON HOSTS NEW EARTH-KIND PLANT TRIALS

'Easy Does It'

In collaboration with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Houston Rose Society, the cancer center is now the first medical facility in the United States to host a National *Earth-Kind* Trial of roses and perennial plants.

Located at the corner of Fannin and Old Spanish Trail on MD Anderson's South Campus, the trial

site will evaluate perennial plants for heat and drought tolerance, and will also evaluate a collection of modern roses for disease/pest resistance in addition to the heat/drought stress commonly associated with Houston summers.

"This research project is tremendously important because it will be the first *Earth-Kind* trial to evaluate the hardiness of modern hybrid tea

and floribunda roses that are new to the commercial markets," explains Gaye Hammond, Past President of the Houston Rose Society.

"The environmental stewardship approach of the *Earth-Kind* program aligns with MD Anderson's commitment to provide healthy and sustainable green spaces not only for the environment, but for our patients, visitors, caregivers



Top to bottom: 'Winter Sun', 'Pink Enchantment', 'Shreveport', 'Beverly', 'Poseidon', 'Summer Sun' and 'Koko Loco'

and employees,” says David Renninger, MD Anderson’s facilities project manager. From a facilities management perspective, *Earth-Kind* encourages water conservation, reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use, landscaping for energy conservation and waste reduction — all of which contribute to MD Anderson’s Energy and Sustainability initiative.

The roses and perennial plants in these trials will not be sprayed with pesticides, receive applications of fertilizers and will receive only minimal irrigation once the plants are established. According to Paul Winski, county extension agent for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, “*Earth-Kind* plant trials in other parts of Texas realize at least a 70 percent reduction in supplemental irrigation and we expect to

see similar water usage reductions at the MD Anderson site.”

The results of the *Earth-Kind* rose and perennial trial will not only influence what is planted in MD Anderson’s gardens, but provide the public and the green industry with information that will help encourage sustainable and environmentally responsible landscaping throughout the region.



'Wedding Bells'



'South Africa'



'Carefree Beauty'

Texas Medical Center Rose Trial Plant List

Hybrid Teas

- 'Heart Song' (KORtrinka)
- 'Beverly' (KORpauvio)
- 'Wedding Bells' (KORsteflali)
- 'Fiji' (KORlacher)
- 'Winter Sun' (KORbatam)
- 'Sunny Sky' (KORaruli)
- 'Pink Enchantment' (KORsouba)
- 'Savannah' (KORvioros)
- 'South Africa' (KORberbini)

Floribundas

- 'Blue For You' (PEJamblu)
- 'Poseidon' (KORfreihar)
- 'Desmond Tutu' (KORtutu)
- 'Plum Perfect' (KORvodacom)
- 'Summer Sun' (KORfocgri)
- 'Rose of Hope' (KORamflusa)
- 'Easy Does It' (HARpageant)
- 'Koko Loco' (WEKbijou)

Other

- Zlesak Seedling # 7

Control

- 'Carefree Beauty' (BUCbi)
(shrub positive control)
- 'Shreveport' (KORpesh)
(hybrid tea negative control)