

## Lady Banks Rose (*Rosa banksiae*)

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*Rosa* is the Latin word for rose, and is one of those delightful words that has made its way into the romance languages and into modern English. Also the word stands primarily for a medium-pink, the color of many wild roses, the genus *Rosa* has flowers of many colors.

Lady Banks rose, *Rosa banksiae* 'Lutea', has cascades of small, double, pale yellow flowers. Other cultivars can be white. This species rose is a climber, and a beautiful addition to the WaterWise garden. It is termed a "species rose" because it is not the produce of intentional rose cross-breeding—this particular form was introduced from a plant growing in its wild habitat; it is identified by full Genus and species as well as a cultivar name in single quotes.

Native to China, this plant was introduced to English horticulture in the late 1700's or early 1800s, and over time has been associated with the English form of gardening. It grows in semi-shade to full sun, requires substantially less water than many other roses once established, is generally thornless, and has semi-evergreen foliage. I have seen it scrambling over fences and trained onto trees, a practice popular in England. Early spring is the bloom time.

For more pictures and information, visit the following educational websites:

[http://trees.stanford.edu/PDF/rosa\\_banksiae.pdf](http://trees.stanford.edu/PDF/rosa_banksiae.pdf)

[http://www.cuyamaca.edu/oh170/Thumbnail\\_Pages/Rosa\\_Banksiae.asp](http://www.cuyamaca.edu/oh170/Thumbnail_Pages/Rosa_Banksiae.asp)



Photo is from Arizona State University information website at:  
<http://www.public.asu.edu/~camartin/plants/Plant%20html%20files/rosabanksiae.html>