

# Tri-County Rose

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The Tri-County Rose is growing here at my place on Papakeechee Lake where it was planted over 30 years ago. One day Dorthy Meehan brought this rose in a bucket and said, you must plant this rose, it is from the Tri-County house, they are going to tear the down, and already it is beginning to fall down. The rose needs a new home. The Tri-County stone house stood on the North Koher Road, southeast side of Lake Papakeechee.

It is growing by our drive way, that I etched out so my plants could have at least 6 hours of sun each day, When it wouldn't stay in one spot, I put it on a picket fence so it could attach and stay put by thorns, but it continues to grow on the ground.



The stone house was in poor condition when we moved here in 1969. We were given a chance to buy it but the Association wasn't interested. The foundation is still in existent with many spring ephemerals and wild tulip growing there.

Tri County was established in 1951. 3,546 acres are surrounded by forest and the interior is planted with native trees, shrubs and flowers that provide shelter and food for the fish and game that live there.

I believe the rose, which sports a gorgeous shade, light coral/pink but advances to a darker rose/coral shade, is in the series that put groundcover roses on the map, I choose to call it a descendent of, the Tri-County Rose, aka Flower Carpet Coral which bears single and clusters of, ruffled, coppery-pink blooms with golden stamens. The plant is said to be as disease-resistant as the original Flower Carpet. Its leaves are glossy and medium-green; blooms are produced in individual and darken to a reddish-coral as they age. Plants grow two to three feet tall, fall over, and produce new runners if left alone, attaching to the ground.



The Rose, regardless of species, is a favorite of June because of its dependability to bloom.

The drift can best be described as a ground cover rose, short in stature, spreading in girth. This prostration may occur because the supporting tissues in the stems are not strong enough to hold the weight of the plant, or may occur because of a genetic disposition for branches to grow horizontally or just under the ground. My ground cover rose is happy resting on a small picket fence. However if the branches touch the ground quite often they will grow a new runner.

The easiest way to keep your roses clean is to either mulch under the rose bush or under the plant with lavenders, violas, hardy geraniums or campanulas.

These roses are for the most part robust, hardworking garden plants. Like all roses, they appreciate generous feedings, but in other respects they're undemanding customers. Their hardiness actually can do without fungicides.

Tri-County Rose becomes engulfed in Stella D'Oro Daylily, artemisia, asters and later in summer, asclepias. It seems to thrive in these ground cover roots, including blue Canterbury bells and campanula.