



Train a rose up a wooden post to give your garden some instant height.

Training climbing plants up an obelisk or a heavy wooden post brings drama and spectacle to your borders. A quick way is to plant sweet peas and train them up a wigwam or obelisk for the summer. A longer term solution is to train a rose up a permanent post or obelisk, pruning it each spring to keep it behaving (see overleaf).

Shopping List:

- wooden post 2.4m x100mmx100mm (8' x 4" x 4")
pressure treated with preservative
- wood stain to colour post (optional)
- climbing rose - see overleaf for recommended varieties
- Toprose rose food
- well rotted manure or compost to improve the soil
- garden twine to train the rose

purple
piglet
project



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Decide where the 'flowering post' will have the most dramatic effect in your garden – put some canes in the ground and look at the effect from inside and outside your house.

Dig a hole for the post – at least 600mm (2ft) deep. Put the post in the hole and rammed the soil back into the hole. It would be better not to concrete it in, but some large stones or bricks may make the ground firmer to support the post.

Dig a hole the depth of your spade on the windy side of the post, breaking up the bottom for another depth of your spade. Mix a large spade of compost and a handful of Toprose into the bottom of the hole and the same in the soil you removed from the hole. Plant the rose, leaning the stems towards the post.

Choose the strongest 3 stems and wind them around the post securing with garden twine. Cut off any other stems completely to keep channelling the energy into the chosen three. By winding the stems around the post you are encouraging flowering shoots to appear all along them. If you just let them grow straight up they will only flower at the top. Each spring you will cut back the flowering shoots close to the main stems, leaving 2 or 3 buds (swellings).

Recommended Roses

These are all repeat flowering climbing roses that aren't too vigorous and all fragrant:

Dublin Bay	crimson clusters with light fragrance
Falstaff	dark crimson/purple + rich old rose fragrance
Graham Thomas	rich yellow with strong tea rose fragrance
Maigold	early bronze yellow with strong fragrance
St Swithun	pink with strong myrrh fragrance
Teasing Georgia	rich yellow with strong tea rose fragrance
Zepherine Drouhin	carmine pink, thornless and very fragrant

