

CARE GUIDE:

Growing Beautiful Roses



Roses are a lovely addition to any garden, however, they can be high maintenance plants. Newer series, such as Knock Out and Drift, have been bred for excellent disease resistance. For greatest success, give them regular attention and the best growing conditions possible. Following are guidelines for planting and maintaining beautiful roses.

LOCATION AND SPACING

Plant roses in full sun, with at least 6 hours of light a day. Most bush type roses should be spaced at least 3-4' apart. Space climbers 6-10' apart.

PLANTING

If your soil is very poorly drained, plant roses on a raised mound (higher than the ground surface) to facilitate drainage. Water well before planting.

Dig a wide hole about 3 times the size of the rootball, and about the same depth as the rootball. Rough up the sides of the hole so there are no slick surfaces. As you dig, toss the dirt into a large container or wheelbarrow.

In a container or wheelbarrow, mix 50% native soil, 40% pine bark soil conditioner, and 10% (or more for sandy soils) organic material, such as composted manure or mushroom compost.

Carefully remove the plant from the container and set it in the hole, making sure the top 1/8th of the rootball is above the grade of the surrounding soil if you have clay, and at the grade if you have sandy soil. If the roots are compacted and tangled, gently loosen them by hand.

Backfill the hole with the soil mix and build a mound up to the level of the rootball. Make sure the soil is 1-2" inches below the bud graft union (the knotty, burlled part that the shoots are coming from). This will help prevent suckers coming from below the graft. Create a 3" lip of soil around the edge of the planting hole or mound to catch water. Water thoroughly with a diluted solution of Ferti-lome Root Stimulator.

TIPS FOR Success WITH ROSES

MULCHING

We recommend a 2" layer of pine bark or cedar over the root zone to conserve water, to protect from temperature extremes, and to reduce weeds and soil-borne diseases.

WATERING AND FERTILIZING

Roses require regular water and fertilizer. Water deeply, soaking the root area once or twice a week (if there has been no rain), preferably in the morning. Avoid getting water on

foliage, as it can promote disease. The amount of water needed will vary, depending on weather conditions, rainfall, plant size, soil structure, and sun duration/intensity. Use a fertilizer formulated for roses, and feed according to instructions. Generally, roses should be fed monthly during the growing season, usually April to mid-August. A few shovelfuls of compost under the mulch layer at the beginning of the season will promote beneficial soil organisms, and feed the plant.

SPRAYING

Roses are prone to a number of diseases and pests. A healthy, well-cared for plant is better able to resist attack than one that has been neglected. Feed and water well. Remove dead wood, fallen leaves, and spent blooms. During the dormant season, right after annual pruning, spray roses with dormant season horticultural oil. This will destroy many diseases, as well as overwintering insect eggs. The fact remains, however, that to control disease and insects on many hybrid roses, a regular spraying regimen during the growing season will most likely be required. The best time to spray is in the early morning, before the sun hits the plants. Neem oil is a good insecticide with antifungal

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SPRAYING *(continued)*

properties. If a fungal problem develops, use Fung-onil™ or a similar fungicide. We also recommend Bayer All-in-One Rose & Flower Care™. This is a concentrate applied once per month and the base of the plant. It contains an insecticide, a fungicide, and a light fertilizer. We also carry Messenger™, an innovative product that uses natural plant proteins to increase vigor, disease resistance, and flowering. If you have a problem you're unsure of, bring a sample to the nursery for diagnosis and a treatment plan.

PRUNING

Pruning extends the life of roses, improves flower quality, regulates size and shape, and reduces disease. Bypass pruners and loppers are recommended for hand pruning.

SEASONAL PRUNING:

Roses should be deadheaded regularly. Cut ¼" above an outward facing set of leaves that contains 5-7 leaflets. You can control cane height by choosing any set of 5-7 leaves along the stem to make the cut. In general, do not remove more than one third of the plant during the growing season.

ANNUAL PRUNING: Perform annual pruning in spring as buds begin to swell, but before leaves appear (usually late February or early March). Remove all basal suckers (shoots growing out from under the knotty bud graft union at the base of the plant) and dead, damaged, or diseased wood. Gently flake off old bark from the graft union to help promote new shoots. To

form a neat, open-centered plant, remove all inward growing branches, as well as any that are pencil-sized or smaller. Remove 4+ years old canes, leaving 3-5 canes about ½" diameter for hybrid teas, and 5-7 canes for floribundas and grandifloras. Reduce remaining canes, leaving at least 3-5 outward facing buds on each. Cut at an angle, about ¼" above outward facing growth bud.

Don't prune climbing roses for the first 2-3 years, except to remove dead, diseased, damaged or crossing canes and suckers. After 2-3 years, remove

older gray and weak canes, leaving at least 3-5 vigorous canes. On once-blooming types (like 'Lady Banks'), prune after spring bloom. Prune climbers every few years.

'Knock Out' roses and similar "shrub roses" can be pruned in late winter or early spring. Study the shape of the shrub and make cuts to even it out, if necessary. Remove dead wood, and any diseased and/or spindly growth in the center of the plant. Cut large canes down to about 24-30" tall (or 2' lower than desired shrub height), cutting about ¼" above an outward-facing bud, slanting away from the bud.

Pruning Tip: To prevent the spread of disease, dip pruners in a 10% water and bleach solution in between cuts.

Easy-Care Roses

These hardy and vigorous varieties do well with little spraying.

Lady Banks: A climbing rose with countless yellow blooms and nearly thornless branches which can reach 20' in length.

New Dawn: A repeat bloomer with pale pink flowers against dark, glossy foliage. It can be grown as a shrub, climber, or tree.

Knock Outs: Available in many great colors, and offer blooms from early spring until frost. No other flowering shrub blooms as long or as often as these.

Drift: Small, mounded rose bushes that are a cross between groundcover and miniature roses, available in a variety of colors. Perfect in containers or at the front of landscape beds, or as a groundcover.



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