

Growing Healthy Roses

PREPARATION Prior to planting your rose, water it with a mixture of GARDENWORKS transplanter fertilizer 5-15-5. This will stimulate root growth & reduce transplant shock.

CONTAINER GROWN ROSES When planting container grown roses, always remove the pot, even the fibre type. Try to minimize root disturbance as much as possible. Cut away the bottom of the pot, then cut the pot vertically down one side. Holding the pot, place the plant at the correct depth in the planting hole, fill the hole in on one side & then “peel off” the pot.

PACKAGED ROSES These roses arrive at GARDENWORKS in February, and are packed in peat or sawdust to keep the roots moist. In order to fully moisten the roots at planting time, soak the roots in a pot of water overnight.

SPACING

Bush Roses: (hybrid teas, grandifloras & floribundas): 50-75 cm (20-30”) apart, depending on the vigour of the cultivar selected.

Shrub Roses: 1-2.5 metres (3-8 feet), or as solitary specimens.

Miniatures: 30 cm (1 ft.) apart.

Climbers: 1.5 to 4 metres (3 to 13 feet), depending on desired effect.

In all cases, bushes should not be less than 45 cm (18”) from the edge of the bed; this means preparing a bed twice the diameter when planting within a lawn.

PLANTING ROSES INTO THE GROUND

Select a location that receives six or more hours of direct sunlight per day. Space your roses accordingly for air circulation & to prevent root compaction from occurring. (see above spacing recommendations) Roses are very heavy feeders so use an organic rich soil.

When planting in an established garden dig the hole approximately 25cm (10”) deep and replenish the soil with a mix of 1/3 peat moss, 1/3 top soil & 1/3 composted manure or sea soil. Add a couple handfuls of bonemeal to the planting hole; this will slowly feed the roots for the next year.

Put enough of the soil mixture in the hole so the bud union is approximately 5cm (2”) inches above soil level, this allows sunlight to warm the bud union stimulating new basal breaks. (If you live in a zone lower than 6, plant the bud union below the soil level).

Continue to fill the hole until full, then slowly water the planting hole. The soil level will sink and more soil will need to be added. Water with GARDENWORKS transplanter fertilizer. Ensure your roses do not dry out after this point. Dehydration can kill a new rose planting.

PLANTING ROSES INTO A CONTAINER

The pot needs to be at least 2 feet wide and 18 inches deep. Fill the pot with a mix of 50% planter box mix and 50% composted manure or sea soil. Don't forget the bonemeal. Follow the above instructions.

TIPS

WATER WISELY water roses deeply & at long intervals. This encourages good deep rooting. Arrange a soaker hose on the ground, or pour water from a watering can at ground level. To prevent the spread of fungal diseases, such as powdery mildew and black spot, avoid water splashing onto the leaves. Water in the morning so the plant has all day to dry off before night falls.

WEED Weed around your roses & keep the area around them clear. Roses do not tolerate heavy competition for light or food from weeds or other plants. Hoe out any weeds surrounding root area & maintain a good mulch area. Be careful not to hoe too roughly or you may damage surface roots, thereby encouraging sucker growths.

DEADHEAD Deadheading is the removal of spent flowers, & ensures a continuous supply of bloom. Cut just above an outward facing, 5-leaflet leaf, on a cane strong enough to support a new bloom. This is where the best flowers will arise from. Cutting too close to the spent bloom, where leaves of only 3 leaflets can be found, will result in weak growth & small flowers.

INSECTS & DISEASE Before spraying, learn the life cycle of the pest or disease by talking with our garden experts, then take the appropriate action. Prevention is the best cure, so sanitation & healthy roses are the key to success. Try attracting beneficial insects to your garden by planting alyssum, marigolds, white cosmos, dill & other herbs.



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SEASONAL CARE OF ESTABLISHED ROSES

EARLY SPRING

In March every year when the yellow blooms of the Forsythia bush appear, it is time to prune your roses. Hard pruning is recommended except for climbers and old garden roses. Start by cutting out all dead and diseased wood. Then remove spindly shoots by cutting them out at the base of the bud union. Then remove the oldest canes to the base of the bud union. Ideally roses should have 3 major canes left after pruning, but a healthy rose will survive if only 1 cane is left.



Now shorten the canes, pruning as low as 15cm (6") is encouraged. Hard pruning stimulates new basal breaks. Cut about 1/4 inch above a healthy outward facing node on an angle.

After pruning, sprinkle one cup of alfalfa and 2 tablespoons of magnesium sulphate (epsom salts) around the bush. The alfalfa will stimulate root growth and the magnesium will stimulate chlorophyll production for healthy foliage.

MID SPRING

Once the rose bush has leafed out it is time to apply fertilizer. GARDENWORKS granular Lawn Fertilizer 15-30-10 is recommended. The slow release nitrogen lasts for a few months and the phosphorus will assist in the root growth and budding.

FIRST CYCLE OF BLOOM

It's time for a high phosphorous fertilizer to promote blooming. Sprinkle GARDENWORKS granular rose food around the bush. Or GARDENWORKS water soluble 15-30-15 works great on roses and companion plantings. Fish fertilizer and Mor Bloom can be used together. Feed every 3-4 weeks until the end of July. It's also time to increase air circulation by removing the bottom foot of foliage off your bushes. This helps reduce fungal infections such as black spot and rust. Continue to deep water and pick off any unhealthy leaves. Deadhead on a regular basis for repeat blooming.

AUGUST

Time to stop fertilizing your roses so they can start hardening off for the winter. Another application of alfalfa and magnesium can be applied (1 cup of alfalfa & 2 tbsp of magnesium sulphate). This time steep for a few days in 2 gallons of water (per bush) then water in around the drip line. Keep watering roses deeply.

OCTOBER

Time to stop cutting off blooms and let the bush form hips. This will ensure the plant hardens off for the winter.

NOVEMBER

After a couple of heavy frosts it's time to strip off the leaves. Be sure to also do your ramblers and climbers. Gently grab the seed head and pull the branch toward you. Then with downward motions, remove all the leaves and throw in the garbage. DO NOT COMPOST! After raking the area apply dolomite lime to the bed to raise the pH of the soil. Mulch the garden with compost or bark mulch to cover the old soil, so spores can not bounce back up later. Finally, apply dormant oil and lime sulphur to the roses on a sunny dry day. (In zones colder than 7, the rose bud union should be covered with compost or bark mulch).

PROBLEMS CAUSED BY NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES & THE CURE

Most nutrient deficiencies can be cured by feeding your roses with a well balanced fertilizer designed specifically for roses. When adding fertilizer to your roses be sure to carefully follow the directions on the box or bag.

IRON DEFICIENCY: Leaves are marked by large yellow areas; young leaves are almost entirely yellow.
The cure - Avoid over-watering and apply iron chelate.

NITROGEN DEFICIENCY: Young leaves are small and pale. Red spots may also develop followed by early leaf drop in fall.
The cure - add GARDENWORKS Rose food

PHOSPHATE DEFICIENCY: Young leaves are small, dark green with purplish tints on the underside. Stems are stunted and weak.
The cure - add GARDENWORKS Rose food

POTASSIUM DEFICIENCY: Young leaves are reddish while mature leaves are green with dried margins.
The cure - add GARDENWORKS Rose food