

Rose Care and Culture

Roses prefer full sun (6 hours or more) and well-drained soil. Dig a planting hole 18" deep and 24" in diameter. Mix 50% of your native soil with composted organic matter such as composted manure. Add bone meal to encourage root growth. Most of our roses are growing in large 5 gallon plastic containers. Water pot well, then tip on its side and gently slide the plant out. Set plant into the prepared planting hole so the soil level around the plant is the same as the surrounding soil. Back fill the prepared soil around the plant and tamp down. Water in well, soaking the entire planting hole. Deep water once a week during the active growing season.

We recommend fertilizing in April, June and August with a granular fertilizer (rose food). You may use a liquid food (Miracle-Gro) more frequently, or a slow-release (Osmocote) or organic food (E. B. Stone) less often.

Regular watering throughout the summer months increases plant vigor and reduces disease problems. Rose diseases may be controlled by close monitoring and good sanitation. Pick off sick leaves and rake fallen leaves when they occur. Hard prune severely diseased plants and spray with a fungicide (Triforine) or organically with copper, baking soda or neem oil to prevent reinfection. Varieties that are intolerably diseased may be sprayed on a 14-21 day cycle from May through September with a fungicide. Insect pests that appear, most often aphids, may often be controlled organically with predators, a soapy solution (Safer brand), an oil spray (neem oil), or a strong blast from your hose.

Lightly prune tall roses in November to prevent snow or wind breakage, with the primary pruning done in March. Most modern roses may be severely pruned, to a height of 6" to 18". This encourages new growth and more flowers. Old roses, English roses and climbing roses prefer a more minimalist pruning, removing just the least productive old wood and damaged or diseased wood.

In late October or early November, apply an organic mulch (manure or bark) 8" to 12" up the canes. This protects against winter injury. Spread the mulch out away from the rose canes in March when you prune.

ENJOY YOUR ROSES!