

Grow great roses by using these do-it-yourself, inexpensive tonic recipes that your roses will love!

Spring Rose Tonic (Alfalfa Tea)

5-6 cups Alfalfa meal

16 gallons of water (large garbage can)

Stir, let steep for 4-5 days, then add:

1 cup Epsom salts

1/4 cup Chelated Iron (available at the Nursery)

Apply to roses early in spring after pruning and pulling mulch away.

The fertilizer does not need warmer soil temperatures to activate.

Apply once a month (also in combination with your regular rose fertilizer) after it warms up to over 50 degrees. Rate: Approximately 1 gallon per large bush. Use less for smaller and newly planted roses.

Mildew, Blackspot, and Aphids Tonic

5 gallons water

7 tablespoons baking soda

Dash of liquid soap

Mix together in a (recycled) plastic spray bottle and saturate top and bottom of leaves every 11-14 days.

