

# Roses



## Location, Soil Preparation and Planting

Roses perform best in full sun, although 5-6 hours of direct sun will yield satisfactory results. Plant in nutrient-rich, moist, well-drained soil. Dig a hole 2' wide and 1-½' deep. Add 1/3 organic matter to 2/3 existing soil, including composted manure and peat moss for best results. Add a handful of super phosphate to promote root growth.

For container-grown roses, carefully remove plant from its original container. Mound soil into a cone shape in the middle of hole. Position rose over soil cone, keeping the graft union at soil level. Spread roots over the cone, then backfill hole halfway with soil mixture, firming soil around roots with your hands. Water thoroughly, then, fill the rest of the hole with remaining soil mixture. Firm the soil with your hands and water thoroughly.

To plant roses in decorative containers, fill in around the root ball with potting mix, one or two cups of dehydrated manure, and a tablespoon of super phosphate.

## Mulch

Mulch helps hold moisture, improves soil as it breaks down, keeps down weeds, and looks nice. Spread shredded hardwood (or mulch of your choice) 2-3" deep over planting area, keeping it 1" to 2" away from crown of plant.

## Watering

Encourage your rose to develop a healthy, deep root system by watering thoroughly and deeply. Check the soil beneath the mulch every 5-7 days, and only water if the soil is dry. Slowly saturate the soil with a soaker or garden hose. Avoid getting the leaves wet, as this could create an environment for disease.

## Fertilizer

Roses are heavy feeders. Fertilize every 3-4 weeks using organic, water soluble, granular, or a slow release fertilizer from April through August.

## Winter Protection

Cut canes back to 4' if excessively tall and save heavier pruning for the spring. For additional protection, mound soil several inches above the graft and around the lower stems after the first hard frost. Remove the soil carefully as new growth begins to show in the spring, usually in March.

## Pruning

Invest in a pair of high quality bypass pruning shears (i.e. Felco). For a flush cut and to avoid injuring the bud union (which might happen with pruning shears), use a pruning saw to remove large woody canes at the bud union. Looping shears with 12" or 18" handles can lessen the pressure on your hands when cutting large canes. And, have a good pair of puncture-proof gloves on hand. The final pruning cut should be made at a 45° angle about a ½ inch above a leaf axil where there is a dormant eye. Cut just above the



eye to encourage new growth to shoot away from the center of the bush. After cutting, apply a drop of Elmer's Wood glue as a barrier against cane borers and to speed recovery.

*Prune Hybrid Teas, Floribundas and Grandifloras annually in the spring. As the old saying goes, "Roses are pruned when the forsythia blooms."* If pruned too early, injury from frost may make a second pruning necessary. Remove dead, damaged, diseased, thin, and weak canes or branches that cross over other branches. This encourages healthy growth from the base of the plant, resulting in larger blooms. Cut at least 1" below damaged areas, removing weak shoots. Cut one or two of the oldest canes on older bushes each year. For Floribundas and Hybrid Teas, cut to 12-18". Cut taller Hybrids and most Grandifloras to 2'.

- ❖ **Hybrid Teas** –The King or Queen of bush roses. Produce single blooms, usually ever-blooming. Use in borders, beds, or as a specimen. They need a little more care (spraying) but are worth the effort.
- ❖ **Floribundas** –An all-purpose rose, usually 2-4' tall with heavy blooms in clusters. Use in borders, containers, or as hedges. Most are ever blooming, and somewhat more disease resistant than the Hybrid Tea.
- ❖ **Grandifloras** – Larger than floribunda, around 6'. Flower similarly to hybrid teas, with more clusters. Heavy, vigorous flower producers through the growing season. Use at the back of a border or as a hedge.
- ❖ **Shrub Rose** –Tough, hardy, somewhat disease resistant. Can be 2' to 8' tall. Borders, problem spots, hedges.
- ❖ **Climbing Roses** – Vigorous growers, produce long canes needing support. Use as an accent along fences or on arbors. Some are ever blooming. Flowers on wood that is at least 2 years old. Canes are large and sturdy. Prune in autumn before cold weather sets in. Cut out dead and diseased canes. Remove one or two oldest canes each year to make room for new ones. Shorten side shoots 3-6" after flowering. Keep 5 to 8 strongest main canes, and tie them to a trellis or other support. Leave fewer canes on plants that are not strong.
- ❖ **Patio** – An all-purpose rose that is excellent for containers, they grow 2-3'.
- ❖ **Tree Roses** – Specimen plant grafted on a tall rose trunk, usually of hybrid tea quality. Prune as a hybrid tea, cutting branches to within 6-10" of base of crown to encourage rounded, compact, vigorous new growth.
- ❖ **Miniature Roses** – For small spaces, fronts of borders, and containers up to 2' tall. Blooms throughout the season. Require special pruning. Cut out dead growth and remove the hips.
- ❖ **David Austin and Old Fashioned Roses** – Bushy, shrub type, focus on fragrance and form. Often cottage, cabbage or occasionally semi-double. Disease resistant.

## Insects and Disease

To reduce insects and fungi, clean beds of dead leaves and debris. Bag and remove pruned material. Do not use it as mulch, but place in trash. Apply a dormant oil and lime sulfur spray **immediately after pruning** before eyes begin to develop. **Do not wait to do this, as the spray will damage developing eyes.** To combat fungus, alternate use of Funginex or Orthenex with Immunox (Bayer) or Daconil every 10 days to 2 weeks during growing season. Cover the plant, undersides of leaves and mulch around plants. For thrips, mist the blossoms with Orthene in the cool of the evening if temperatures are below 85° F. During Japanese Beetle season, we recommend Sevin®.

## Designing with Roses

Adding low-growing perennials (like candytuft, dianthus, creeping thyme, santolina, lavender) under or around roses can add interest during the growing season and through winter. Intersperse perennials and/or shrubs in a border, grouped at the center or end of a border. Use roses in containers for mobile color. Fragrant roses are nice to have near a back door or patio. And, climbers look lovely on arbors. Use roses wherever you'll enjoy them!