

**ROSE CARE
& PLANTING TIPS**

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21 W 020 ARMY TRAIL ROAD
ADDISON, IL 60101 (630) 627-6261www.SchwarzNursery.com**Site Preparation:**

Choose an area with good drainage, full sun exposure (at least 6 hours), and adequate air movement. Air movement is crucial in keeping foliage dry to discourage disease problems.

Planting:

Dig a hole about 1½ times larger than the pot and deep enough so the union bud (where the roots and stem meet) are about 2" below ground level. After digging, mix 2/3 existing soil with 1/3 compost and manure; mix well. Place the rose in the hole, being careful not to disturb the roots and soil, and back-fill with the soil mixture. Roses grow best in a rich fertile soil, which is why compost and manure should be used (home compost and sphagnum peat will work fine also). Make sure that a trench is dug around the rose to catch the water and avoid run off.

Watering:

Overhead watering should be avoided as much as possible since it encourages diseases such as black spot and mildew. Roses like a good deep soaking once a week (about 2-3 gallons per plant). Roses that are watered a little each day and not deep enough develop surface roots instead of good, deep, healthy roots. The perfect method for watering roses is placing a hose at the base of the stem with a slow stream trickle. Depending on the quantity of roses you may have, a soaker hose may be a good choice; wrap the hose around each plant (about 5" from stem) and let water soak into the ground. This may require 2-3 hours at a time. In extreme heat, twice weekly watering may be needed.

Mulching:

Mulching will help retain moisture for your roses. Depending on which type of mulch you use, when broken down, ultimately will help enrich the soil. The mulch that is most beneficial to your roses is home compost, bagged compost and manure, (aged) straw, and shredded leaves. Bagged organic mulch (cypress, cedar, or shredded hardwood) may be used, but this takes a long time to decompose and it will take much longer to enrich soil. When mulching, mulch should be 2-4 inches thick and cover the entire area that was dug. Be careful not to place mulch close to the stem of the plant. Mulch may need to be reapplied during the growing season.

Fertilizing:

A healthy rose is a rose that will fight off diseases and insects. Along with proper watering, fertilizing is essential. When a rose is planted in the spring and early summer, fertilize with a 2 in 1 rose care product, (a granular fertilizer will help cut down the constant care they may require), and every six weeks until late August. If a rose is planted in fall, after September 1st, do not fertilize. New growth is not welcomed in the fall, because roses need to store up energy in the root system for the winter. When planting in fall, follow the planting, watering and mulching recommendations mentioned above.

Pruning:

Roses need to be pruned to ensure their continuing good health. Roses like lots of air circulation, so prune out any criss-crossed & weak stems. Always cut on a slight angle above a dormant eye.

Spring Pruning: (except climbers)

“When the forsythia blooms it’s time to prune.” This means the danger of frost is probably gone. Uncover your roses; rake out fallen leaves, and add a layer of compost and manure to keep soil rich for the upcoming growing season. If your roses had a black spot problem the season before, spray a fungicide on the soil around the roses. Most roses will need to be pruned to about 3 to 6 inches up from the ground. Any “blackened” canes should be cut off completely, using the slight angle cut.

Pruning Climbers:

DO NOT CUT DOWN YOUR CLIMBER. What climbers require is removal of dead or diseased canes. This should be done while they are dormant. Every year you should prune away the oldest and also the weakest new canes. Make sure to retain 3 or 4 vigorous young canes to tie to supports.

Fall Pruning:

NEVER prune your roses in the fall. All seasonal pruning, including spent blooms, criss-crossing, suckers and damaged stems, should be done before September 1st. Pruning in the fall encourages growth, which takes away from the energy roses need to store for the winter months. Rose hips are developed for this reason and should not be pruned off.

Winter Protection: (except climbers)

After the first killing frost, clean the area underneath the rose of any fallen leaves and any debris. Cover your roses about 1/3 of the way up from the ground, which should be sufficient enough for winter protection.

Climbers can be protected in different ways. Cover the base of the climber about 1/3 of the way up. If your climber is still at a manageable height, untie canes and remove as much of the leaves that you can, gather canes and wrap in burlap and attach back to the supports. The same can be done without burlap, laying the canes on the ground and cover with leaves.

Insect and Disease Control for Roses:

In our area, the two most annoying common insects are Aphids and Japanese beetles. The 3 most common diseases in our area are: Powdery Mildew, Black Spot and Rust. Applying a chemical (such as Orthene) that is made for these pests can help keep all under control. Make sure to follow all manufacturers’ directions carefully.

Making sure your roses are watered correctly, fertilized properly and that soil is enriched periodically will ensure attractive, healthy, and insect & disease-resistant plants.

