



Rose Care

Site:

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

Planting:

Dig a hole about 1½ times larger than the pot and deep enough so the bud union (where the roots and stem meet) is about 2" below ground level. After digging, create a rich, fertile environment for your rose by mixing 2/3 of the existing soil with 1/3 compost and manure (home compost and sphagnum peat moss also work well). Remove the rose from the pot being careful not to disturb the soil, place the rose in the hole, and then back fill with the soil mixture. Make sure to dig a trench around the rose to catch water and avoid run off.

Watering:

Avoid overhead watering as much as possible since it encourages foliar diseases such as black spot and mildew. Roses like a good deep soaking once a week (about 2-3 gallons per plant). Do not water roses "a little each day" as they will develop surface roots instead of good, deep, healthy roots. The perfect method for watering roses is at the base of the stem with a slow, steady trickle.

If you have a larger number of roses, a soaker hose may be a good choice for handling your watering needs; wrap the hose around each plant (about 5" from stem) and let water soak into the ground. This method may require soaking for 2-3 hours at a time.

In extreme heat, you may need to water your roses twice a week.

Mulching:

Mulching helps in retaining moisture for your roses as well as enriching the soil as it naturally breaks down. The most beneficial mulches for your roses are home compost, bagged compost, bagged manure (aged), straw and shredded leaves. Bagged mulch is usable but takes longer to decompose, therefore, taking longer to enrich the soil.

When applying, spread the mulch 2-4 inches thick over the entire area that was dug, being careful to keep mulch away from the stem of the plant. During the course of the growing season, you may need to reapply mulch.

Fertilizing:

A healthy rose is a rose that will fight off disease and insects. Therefore, along with proper watering and soil preparation, fertilizing is essential. When planting a rose in spring or early summer, fertilize with a 2-in-1 rose care product and continue fertilizing every six weeks until late August. Alternatively, using a slow-release, granular fertilizer will help cut down on the constant fertilizing required. If a rose is planted after

September 1st, do not fertilize. You should not encourage new growth in the fall because roses need to store up energy in the root system for the winter. When planting roses in fall, follow the planting, watering and mulching instructions as mentioned above.

Pruning:

Pruning is necessary to ensure the health of your rose. To aid in air circulation, prune any criss-crossing or 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 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. Climbers require the removal of dead or diseased canes, which you should do while the rose is dormant. Every year, you should prune away the oldest and weakest new canes, making sure to retain 3 or 4 vigorous young canes to tie to supports.

Fall Pruning:

Never prune your roses in the fall. All pruning, including pruning of spent blooms, criss-crossing canes, suckers and damaged stems, should be complete before September 1st. Pruning in the fall encourages growth, which takes away from the energy it needs to store up 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, removing any fallen leaves and debris. Cover your roses about 1/3 of the way up from the ground, which should be sufficient for winter protection.

You can protect a climber in several different ways. Cover the base of the climber about 1/3 of the way up, the same as you would for other roses. If your climber is still at a manageable height, untie canes, remove as many of the leaves as you can, gather up the canes, wrap in burlap and re-attach to the supports. You can do the same without burlap by laying the canes on the ground and covering with leaves.

Insect and disease control:

In our area, the two most annoying common pests are aphids and Japanese beetles. The three most common diseases in our area are powdery mildew, black spot and rust. Applying a chemical specifically made for these pests can control all of them. Make sure to read and follow directions carefully.

Making sure your roses have rich soil and are watered and fertilized correctly will ensure longer living, healthy and pest-resistant plants.