



Rose Care

Roses are some of the oldest, most treasured, and romantic plants in the world. Following is a month by month guide for lovers of roses who want to know HOW they should be caring for their roses, WHAT they need to do, and WHEN to do it.

[January]

- -A good time to prepare new beds, to have soil testing done, if not done in the fall, and to re-search cultivars you would like to grow this season.
- -Dig the new bed to a depth of 18-24", roses are deep rooted. The addition of organic materials (soil conditioner, peat moss, compost, leaf mold) is recommended. You may also add bone meal, alfalfa pellets, and lime (based on recent soil test results). Roses prefer a slightly acidic soil.
- -Apply dormant spray (lime sulfur) to the roses & the soil around them before bud break to help reduce disease & insect problems.

[February]

- -Bareroot and boxed roses arrive in the nursery early this month. Come in to see the new introductions and to choose your favorites while the varieties are plentiful. Select number 1 or 12 grade roses.
- -This is a good month to plant new roses and to prune established ones.
- Prune established roses when the buds are about 3 - 4 inches long. Remove all leaves. The traditional method of pruning reduces the bush to 3 - 5 large canes. Shape the bush to have a hollowed center to allow better air circulation. The length of the cane is up to you. A severe 7 - 10 inch pruning is reserved for new bareroot bushes & show blooms. Never hard prune a floribunda. Moderate pruning is reducing the height to 2 of the original size, including the

floribundas'. Light pruning is reducing the height to 1/2 of original size after the removal of all unwanted wood. Try to prune to an outside bud at a 45 degree angle about 3 inch above the bud. Too light or no pruning results in spindly growth and poor quality blooms.

- -A newer, simpler method is to merely reduce the height of the bush by 2 its original size.
- -Climbers, especially those that bloom on "old" wood, are normally pruned after their bloom period. After 3 years remove the oldest canes.
- **-Planting** can begin as soon as the roses arrive and the ground is not frozen. Hybrid Tea Roses will require about 3 square feet of area, climbers more, floribundas less. Dig the hole 18 - 24 inches deep and as wide. Add soil amendments (50% soil, 50% amendments). Soil conditioner, peat moss, composted cow manure, compost and leaf mold are good examples of organic materials that may be added to the soil to increase soil fertility and drainage. Roses are heavy feeders and will benefit from the addition of cow manure, compost, and leaf mold. The planting site should be located so the roses receive a minimum of 6 hours of sun, morning sun is more important than afternoon sun. They also need good drainage, good air circulation, but not windy sites. Avoid tree roots and the drip lines of trees when establishing sites to grow roses. Roses will not thrive in poor soil or

wet sites.

- -It is a good idea to soak bare-root and boxed roses before planting. Remove the top of the box at the zip strip, puncture the sides and bottom of the box to help it biodegrade. Place the graft above soil level and the cardboard below soil level. Keep well watered. (Exposed cardboard will act as a wick and dry the roots).

[March]

- -Pruning should be completed by the end of the month.
- -Fertilize established plants now with a balanced fertilizer, following recommendations. (Wait to fertilize newly planted roses until after their first bloom).
- -Keep area around roses weed free the entire growing season.
- -It is a good idea to add a shovel or two of compost or composted cow manure to established plants now.
- -Remove mulch around the bud union if used for winter protection.
- -Container grown roses will be arriving in the nursery this month also.



| April |

- -Roses will completely leaf out this month. After they have leafed out, go ahead and start a disease preventative spray program. To help prevent powdery mildew, downy mildew and black spot use Bayer's All In One Rose and Flower Care. This product also helps to control insect problems and fertilizes at the same time. Knock Out and Flower Carpet Roses are just a couple of the more disease resistant rose varieties.

| May |

- -Fertilize newly planted roses after their first bloom. Continue to feed all roses on a monthly basis thereafter. One time application of time releases fertilizer pellets now will eliminate the monthly feedings.
- -Water regularly, avoid wetting the foliage if possible. Watering in the mornings will allow foliage to dry before evening. (This will help prevent fungus problems).
- Japanese beetles will start appearing soon. Liquid Sevin applied in the early morning or late in the day will help preserve the bee population and eliminate the beetles.
- -Continue the preventative disease spray program.
- -A 2" mulch layer of pinebark will help keep the roots cool, cut down on moisture loss, and help prevent weeds.

| June |

- -Continue to spray early in the morning to avoid leaf injury. Do not apply sprays when temperatures are above 86 degrees.
- -Roses need 3 - 5 gallons of water per week.
- -Dead head spent blossoms to conserve plant energy.
- -When cutting newly planted roses, cut just above the second five leafed stem. Established roses may be cut lower on the stem, but removing too many leaflets

reduces energy.

| July |

- -Cut roses in the cool of the morning, putting them immediately into water. Recut stems under water to obtain optimum water uptake. A small splash of a carbonated, citrus drink (not diet) and a drop of bleach will feed and give blooms a longer life.
- -Climbers that bloom annually, or bloom on old wood are best pruned after their bloom period. Remove all dead canes. Cut a of older canes to 24" on 3 year old plants. To renovate an old bush completely remove a of oldest canes every year for several years.
- -Keeping the rose bed free of fallen leaves and petals helps reduce black spot.

| August |

- -Roses are beginning to prepare for fall. Stop fertilizing by the middle of the month.
- -Visit local gardens to view roses you may want to consider adding to your collection.

| September |

- -Leave finished flower heads on to enjoy the beautiful and colorful rose hips.
- -Discontinue the preventative spray program at the end of this month.

| October |

- -Tidy the rose beds by picking up the fallen leaves.
- -Fall is an excellent time to begin preparing new rose beds especially if you have soil with a high clay content.

| November |

- -Cut "whips" to 36". (Whips are long canes that are blown

by the wind and will loosen the roots. Tying the shortened whips together also helps).

| December |

- -Heaping pine bark mulch over the rose bush up to 18" will provide winter protection.
- -Tying a burlap bag over the top of tree roses and filling it with leaves will insulate the bud union and protect it from freezing.

