



# Roses

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Roses are really not difficult to grow if you allow for a few basic requirements. Like all plants, they respond well to a little extra care and attention and will reward you many times over if you meet their needs. For years roses were budded on rootstock but the trend now is to have varieties grown on their own roots.

## **SUN**

Your rose needs a minimum of 6 hours of sun a day during the growing season (8+ hours is best). It prefers to face southeast to south with good air circulation and some protection from the wind at its back.

## **PLANTING**

Roses prefer a rich, loamy, well-drained soil. Good soil preparation should include adding a generous quantity of garden compost. The planting hole should be large, at least 18” across and deeper than the container the rose was growing in.. Be sure to loosen the soil at the sides of the hole. Amend the soil with organic matter, bonemeal or high phosphorous fertilizer to promote strong stem growth and flowering.

Remove the rose from its container. Keep the soil around its roots intact but mix some of the container soil with the soil in the hole. **Position the rose so that its graft union is slightly above ground level** and fill the hole halfway up with the amended soil. Tamp the soil down gently but firmly. Pour in a bucket of water and check for air holes.

When the water has soaked in, add the remaining soil to the hole and tamp down. Create a watering basin around the plant by building a 2”-3” earthen berm around the plant.

## **WATERING**

Regular watering is important. Depending on rainfall, water deeply once a week and continue that schedule until late fall.

## **FERTILIZING**

Roses do well with slow release or organic fertilizers applied once or twice during the growing season.

## **MULCHING**

Mulching helps to conserve water and keep the ground around the rose cool. Reapply the mulch if it starts to disappear during the season. If the roses are grafted or are not a hardy variety, mounding the plant with soil or mulch during the winter can protect the plant or bud union.

## **SPRAYING**

During the growing season, spray your roses every 2 weeks against blackspot, mildew and bugs. In early July, spray against Japanese beetles. Don't spray after Labor Day. Try to plant roses that are disease and insect resistant.

## **PRUNING**

Pruning is designed to maintain the attractive shape of your roses and to keep the plants healthy. Different types of roses have slightly different requirements.

### **Hybrid Teas/Shrub Roses**

1. Most hybrid teas are pruned in the spring, when the forsythia is in bloom.
2. Remove all dead or dying canes, any suckers, and thin or weak canes.
3. Cut at a 45-degree angle about ¼" above an outward-facing bud. The cut should slant away from the bud.
4. Your goal is to produce an open-centered plant, allowing the easy penetration of air and light.
5. Leave 3-5 strong canes and cut each cane back to 3-5 buds per cane.

### **Rugosa**

1. Rugosa roses require very little pruning and should not be pruned in the spring. Nip off any obvious dead wood. Good deadheading during the summer will encourage repeat blooming.
2. After the first bloom cycle ends in June, remove old wood at ground level to encourage new shoots.

### **Old Roses**

1. Prune the old rose varieties immediately after flowering unless they are continuous flowering.
2. When in doubt, do nothing except remove dead or sickly material after the rose has flowered. Less is always better with these roses.

### **Climbers**

1. Prune repeat-blooming climbers gently in the spring. Reducing the side shoots or laterals to 3"-6" stimulates flower production.
2. Once-blooming ramblers are pruned right after flowering, in early summer.