

SOIL AND MULCHING

Roses love water, but they cannot tolerate wet feet, so choose a well-drained area. Drainage can be checked by digging an 18" hole. If it takes longer than a couple of hours to drain after you add water, drainage is poor. In very moist areas, a raised bed at least 10 to 15" above the ground can be built.

Mulch, if desired, immediately after planting with an organic material such as shredded bark or pine straw to a depth of 2". Benefits of mulching include fewer weeds, keeping roots moist and cool during summer heat, the addition of organic matter to the soil, and adding a finishing touch to your Rose bed.

WATERING AND FERTILIZATION

Water thoroughly when necessary, always making sure the foliage has time to dry off before evening to prevent diseases. If possible, water directly at the base of your Roses, not on top of them. Deep watering to a depth of 8 to 10" is necessary to prevent shallow roots which will make the Rose more susceptible to drought conditions and freezing.

Roses require a constant supply of nutrients. Begin to fertilize new plants about 3 to 4 weeks after planting and then fertilize after the flowers begin to bud out. Liquid fertilizers can be used every 2 weeks, granular fertilizers can be used ever 4 to 6 weeks. When using granular fertilizers, wet the soil before applying and disperse granules 6 to 8" from the trunk. Cultivate lightly and water. Fertilize no later than August 15th to allow Roses to harden off before winter.

INSECTS AND DISEASES

Some Rose varieties are more susceptible to insects or diseases than others. Sprays can be used in spring, summer and fall on leaves and branches to control insects and diseases. Drenches and granular products can be used in the soil and around plants for long-term systemic protection. There are also many organic alternatives for most chemical products. Consult a "Purple Person" in our Garden Store for specific questions and product recommendations.

Powdery Mildew – Signs to look for are leaves that curl and grey mold on leaves, stems and buds. Spray with recommended materials at first sign of problem covering all plant surfaces thoroughly.

Blackspot – Signs to look for are black spots on leaves beginning on the lower section of the plant and advancing upwards. Remove and destroy infected leaves and spray with recommended materials.

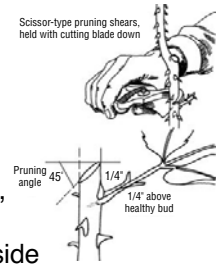
Rust – Signs to look for are bright orange deposits on undersides of leaves. Remove and destroy infected leaves and spray with recommended materials.

Japanese Beetles – Signs to look for are lace-like damage on leaves and large, dark iridescent beetles. Remove and destroy beetles OR spray with recommended materials.

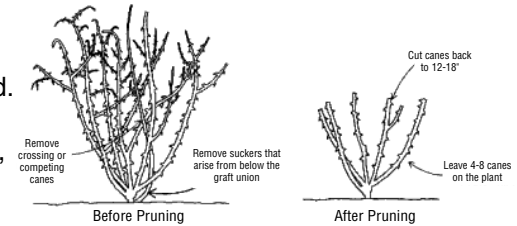
PRUNING

ALL major pruning should begin in spring when Roses are dormant and the danger of severe weather is past. Completely remove soil and other material used for winter protection so the entire plant can be examined before pruning.

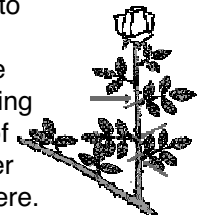
Pruning cuts should be made 1/4" above a healthy bud, going in the same directions as the bud at a 45 degree angle. Prune canes until you see their creamy white inside (not brown or damaged, split, diseased or blackened canes).



To keep plants shapely, prune to outside facing buds so that new growth will branch outward. Additional pruning includes removal of weak spindly canes, inward branches that are crossing or rubbing each other, suckers coming from below bud unions, candelabra type of growth (canes that grow straight out and then curve upward) and removal of wood that is over 3 years old (which has finally gone from first year green to third year brown-black).



Finally, prune out all but the strongest 3 to 6 canes back to 12" on Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras and Floribundas. Prune Climbers after their first flush of flowers in the spring. The removal of spent flowers will help keep your Rose blooming all summer long. To remove the spent flower or cluster of flowers, follow the stem down until you find another flower bud or the first set of 5 true leaves and cut 1/4" above there.



In fall, only prune willow branches so Roses can be winter protected by soil, mulch or whatever covering you choose. Pruning should stop by August 15th to allow the final flowers to form seed pods which will slow down growth and harden plants off for the winter.

ROSES AS CUT FLOWERS

Cut your Roses in early morning or late afternoon and on an angle with a sharp knife just when the outside petals first start to unfold. Always leave at least 2 sets of 5 true leaves remaining on the plant. After cutting, remove all leaves which will be below water level in the vase. After removing foliage, immerse stems in warm water (about 85-90 degrees or comfortable to the hand) and leave the Roses immersed until the water cools. At this point, refrigerate the cut Roses in water for 2-3 hours before arranging. To prolong the life of your Rose arrangement, you can also buy a commercial floral preservative and follow package instructions.