

# Planting & Caring For Roses

1) **Preparing the planting hole**, the right way will help in getting your roses off to a good start. Below are some tips for preparing your planting hole:

- Dig your hole shallow and wide. Don't dig the hole any deeper than the depth of the pot the plants came in. You will want to dig a hole at least twice as wide as the pot, this allows the roots to push out into the loosened soil quickly to gather moisture and nutrients. The faster they can do that, the more quickly they will adapt to their new home and grow.
- If you've prepared the soil in your new bed with lots of compost, don't add more to the hole. The roots may never push out into the surrounding soil if you make the soil in the hole too rich. But if you're planting new roses in an established bed, you'll want to amend the soil with extra compost as you dig.

2) **Watering:**

- During the initial planting of new roses, make a basin around the edge of the hole to retain water. Fill the basin with water 3 to 4 times, soaking the plant thoroughly.
- Established roses need the most moisture when they are actively growing and blooming. They require adequate moisture but should never sit in water. Soak your plants slowly and thoroughly, being careful to keep water off the foliage and just around the base of the plant. Drip or soaker hoses are the most thorough and efficient ways to enable the roses to thrive in landscape plantings.
- Try to limit wetting foliage to avoid leaf fungi. If you do use a sprinkler or sprinkler system to water, do so early in the morning so that the foliage can dry out quickly. This will help to discourage disease.

3) **Fertilizing:**

- **For Newly Planted Roses:**
  - As stated above, adding rich organic matter to the planting hole will help provide the roots with nutrients.
  - You can also work in a slow release fertilizer according to the package instructions with a handful of bonemeal to encourage healthy root development.
  - Continue fertilizing every three to four weeks with a mild fertilizer such as fish emulsion.

- **For Established Roses:**

- During the growing season, it is best to use fertilizers that are rich in phosphorous (10-20-10 Plant Food, the middle number "20" represents 20% formulation of phosphorous). Slow release fertilizers are ideal for long lasting vitality. For established roses, if you are looking for a once and done fertilizer, consider using fertilizer spikes for roses.
- Begin fertilizing your plants once they are fully leafed out with a balanced fertilizer and approximately every four to six weeks thereafter through August, but not after September 1st. When choosing a rose fertilizer, consider using one with systemic insecticide added for protection against summer pests. Remember to always water the dry fertilizers into the soil immediately after applying.

#### **4) Pruning:**

- Pruning is normally done when the plant is dormant or semi-dormant, in early spring. It is best not to prune in very cold weather.
- Using a sharp shears remove all dead, diseased, or damaged wood. Cut back until you hit healthy stems.
- Next, remove any crossing shoots and weak or spindly growth. Make a clean cut just above a healthy bud.
- When pruning hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas, prune back to 18"-24". Choose 4 or 5 strong, healthy canes to keep. Make sure they are away from the center of the rose and away from each other, making for maximum air and sun. Prune all other canes and side branches as far back as possible.
- Shrub roses don't need a lot of pruning and can be done at any time. Pruning can be done to shape plant, or it can be allowed to grow freely. If let go, a hard pruning every few years will help to rejuvenate the plant.
- For climbing roses, it is best to allow the rose to establish itself for three years before any significant pruning is required. Lightly prune for directing the flushes of growth. After your climbing rose has been established, strategically prune out old canes to allow for younger and more vigorous canes to replace for accomplishing best flowering. Downward angled cuts are the preferred pruning method for climbing roses.

#### **5) Spraying or Dusting:**

- When and how much to use fungicides and insecticides depends greatly on the type of roses you plant and on weather conditions. Humidity and excessive rain can create problems with blackspot and powdery mildew.
- Most hybrid tea and floribunda roses should be checked/treated every two weeks.

- Shrub and hedge roses should be checked throughout the season and only sprayed if a problem is spotted.
- White's Ace stocks multiple products to help deal with insects and diseases. These include foliage sprays, and granular or liquid drenches that are applied to the soil.

#### 6) Winterizing Roses:

- When winterizing Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, and Climbers you should take the following steps:
  1. Stop deadheading/pruning your roses three to five weeks before the first frost.
  2. In the fall, take topsoil or mulch and make a mound around the base of the plant to a height of 10" to 12".
  3. If you have a variety that doesn't winter well, it should be given extra protection. Consider using a rose cone filled with leaves, straw, or pine needles to cove the rose. Be sure to remove all this when the rose begins to show growth in the spring.
- Shrub roses generally need no extra care.

