

Rose Care and Planting

For the best result from your roses, it is important to pay close attention to the following points.

- Select a proper site
- Prepare the soil thoroughly
- Plant healthy, vigorous rose bushes
- Provide necessary seasonal maintenance

With the correct care, your new rose will grow vigorously and provide pleasure for many years.

Site Selection

Choose a well-drained site that will receive about 6 hours of direct sun daily. Be sure it is away from the roots of large trees and roof overhangs.

Site Preparation

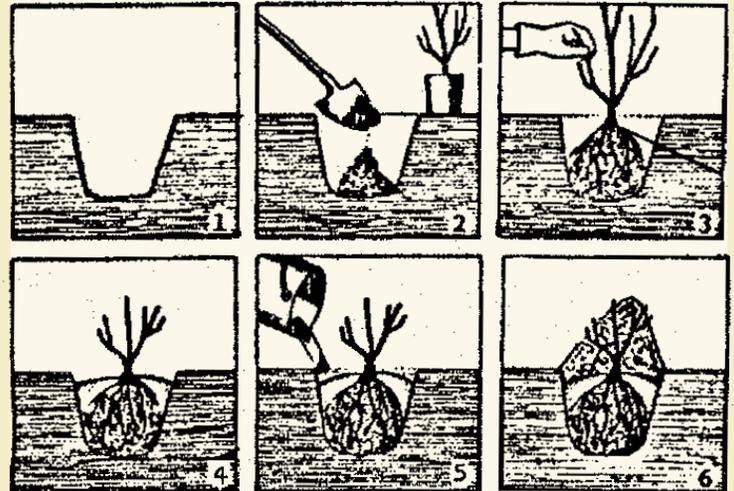
Roses will grow in any good soil. For the best results, prepare the beds at least 3 weeks in advance of planting to allow soil to settle. Improve the soil by adding generous amounts of peat moss, and well-rotted manure or compost. Mix these well into the soil to a depth of at least 30 cm (12 inches). Good drainage is important. Where the water table is high beds should be raised 30 cm (12 inches).

Mix bonemeal into the top 30 cm (12 inches) of the dug bed. To avoid injury to the young roots of roses, do not add any other fertilizer at planting time.

Planting Container Grown Roses

When planting container grown roses, always remove the pot, even if it is the fibre type. Try to minimize root disturbance as much as possible. Cut away the bottom of the pot, and then cut the pot vertically down one side. Holding the pot, place the plant at the correct depth in the planting hole, fill the hole in on one side, and then "peel off" the pot.

Finish as described for packaged roses, watering in the partially filled hole. Mounding soil up over the canes to protect from drying out is only necessary in early spring before leaves appear.



Planting Packaged Roses

These roses arrive at GARDENWORKS in February, and are packed in peat or sawdust to keep the roots moist. In order to fully moisten the roots at planting time, soak the roots in a pot of water overnight.

Next, dig a hole large enough to permit the roots to spread out in a fan shape. Set the plant on a mound of firm, fine soil, and spread the roots out over the mound. Planting of the bud union below the final grade of soil is not necessary on the coast, but is recommended east of Chilliwack in zones 6 and lower.

Fill the planting hole with a soil and compost mixture to about 3/4 full and firm the soil mix around the roots. Fill the remaining hole with water and allow it to drain. Finish filling the hole with more soil, and continue adding soil to form a mound to cover the lower canes. This keep the canes from drying out until the roots become functional. Remove the mounds when the plant become established and the buds begin to break. This will take about three weeks.

Rose Care Continued

Recommended Spacing

Bush Roses: (includes hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas): 50 to 75 cm (20 to 30") apart, depending on the vigour of the cultivars selected.

Shrub Roses: 1 to 2.5 metres (3 to 8 feet), or as solitary specimens.

Miniatures: 30 cm (12") apart.

Climbers: 1.5 to 4 metres (3 to 13 feet), depending on desired effect.

In all cases, bushes should not be less than 45 cm (18") from the edge of the bed; this means preparing a bed twice the diameter when planting within a lawn.

Watering

Water your rose deeply once a week, arranging a soaker hose on the ground, or pouring water from a watering can at ground level. To prevent the spread of fungal diseases, such as powdery mildew and black spot, avoid letting water splash on the leaves. Water in the morning so that the plant has all day to dry off before night falls.

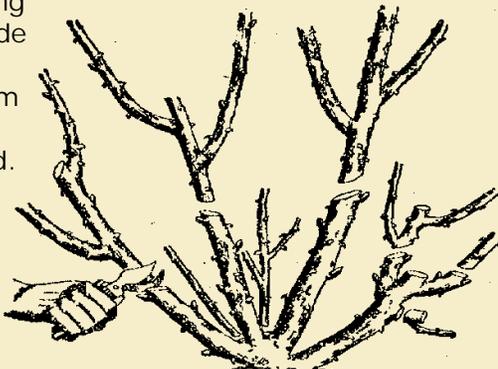
Pruning

In the spring newly planted roses should be cut back severely, leaving only three strong canes 10 - 12 cm (4 to 5") long. This encourages production of strong growth for a solid foundation.

Established bushes and those planted in the fall are pruned when the forsythia is in bloom, usually in late February to mid-March, when any protective soil-mounds and mulches should also be removed.

Cut out any dead or diseased shoot to ground level.

Remove weak, twiggy and crossing shoots to their point of origin, leaving only 3 to 6 healthy canes of pencil thickness or better. Cut these back to live wood, as indicated by white interiors. All pruning cuts should be made with sharp, clean shears, about 5 mm (1/4") above an outward facing bud.



Fertilizing

Fertilize established roses at the end of March with GARDENWORKS Rose Food. Work into the soil and water well. Do not fertilize newly established roses. Subsequent applications of fertilizer should be made at 6 week intervals to the end of July. Dust lightly with wood ashes or Sulphate of Potash in September. This will help rose plants to ripen wood and develop roots before winter sets in.

Deadheading

Deadheading is the removal of spent flowers, and ensures a continuous supply of bloom. Cut just above an outward facing, 5-leaflet leaf, on a cane strong enough to support a new bloom. This is where the best flowers will arise from. Cutting too close to the spent bloom, where leaves of 3 leaflets can be found, will result in weak growth and small flowers.

Disease Control

Most rose diseases are caused by fungi and are controlled by applying fungicidal sprays or dusts. Use products specially formulate for Rose Blackspot and Mildew control, such as Funginex. Fungicides should be sprayed over the entire plant, as opposed to just spraying where the disease is noticeable.

Insect Control

Insect pests can be controlled as noticed on the plant, either with a strong jet of water, hand-picking, insecticidal soap, or in severe infestations, using insecticides such as Diazinon. Except for in a few specific cases, insecticides and fungicides should never be mixed together.

Do not prepare more than you can use at one time; diluted sprays deteriorate after a few hours. Read label directions before preparing, wear protective clothing and observe all safety rules when applying any chemical control product.

Winter Protection

Cut canes back to about 1 to 1.2 metres (3 to 4 feet) to prevent them from whipping around in the winter winds. Remove dead leaves from the bed. For tender cultivars, soil can be brought to the beds and mounded up around the canes to a depth of 20 to 30 cm (8 to 12"). Otherwise, winter protection is not required in Coastal B.C..