

## Choosing a site for your rose

Having acquired your rose, select a site that provides five or more hours of direct sunlight per day.

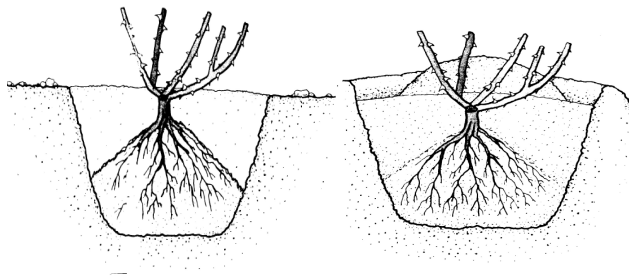
Avoid planting your rose near large established trees or shrubs which might absorb nutrients and water meant for your roses.

Choose a location with suitable air flow, not excessively open, because your rose will dehydrate or break off in high winds, give it enough air flow to dry the foliage and decrease the opportunity for disease.

Good, well drained soil is necessary for healthy roses. A soil pH of 6.0 - 7.0 is good for roses. You can have your soil tested by your county extension office.

Add composted organic matter to poor soil and create a raised bed if drainage is a problem.

Composted organics improve soil structure, moisture retention, and the soils ability to perform nutrient holding functions. The feeding area for most roses is 24 - 30" wide and 18" deep.



## Site preparation for your bareroot rose

When planting bareroot stock roses, plant as soon as the soil is workable.

- ❖ Prune any broken roots or canes.
- ❖ Loosen the soil approximately 18" deep and 24-30" wide for most varieties.
- ❖ Remove enough soil to create a cone allowing the roots to symmetrically spread. The cone needs to be deep enough to allow the union or crown of the rose to be 3-4" below the soil surface to protect it from harsh winters.
- ❖ Spread the roots evenly over the mound and fill the soil to about ground level.
- ❖ Water well, root stimulator may be used.
- ❖ Allow soil to settle, then add more soil mounding it over the canes.
- ❖ Water again and mulch lightly.
- ❖ The mound will keep your canes from drying out until the roots have established themselves.
- ❖ When new growth emerges, carefully wash the mounded soil to the final soil level.

- ❖ Create a shallow basin about 2" in diameter to help collect water, and cover an area approximately 24-30" wide with mulch to keep out competing weeds and grasses.

## Planting container grown roses

When planting container roses, loosen the soil to about 18" deep by 24-30" wide.

- ❖ Remove the rose from its container and gently separate the roots if heavily pot bound.
- ❖ Plant the crown or bud union as realistically as possible to the 3-4" below the final soil level.
- ❖ Avoid burying leaves to accomplish this since they will rot and cause the plant to sink below the required soil level.
- ❖ You may have to strip off some of the lower leaves to be able to plant your rose a little deeper. Water well, root stimulator may be used. Form a shallow basin around the plant to help collect water, and mulch an area 24-30" wide to keep out competing grass and weeds.

## Fertilizing

There are several options:

Fertilizer spikes are the least labor intensive and least effective. The area around the spike becomes a hot spot and produces poor nutrient availability to the rest of your rose.

Granular Fertilizers require several applications per season, but nutrients are more evenly dispersed and available to more of your plants root system. Be sure to read container instructions carefully. We recommend Rose-tone 6-6-4.

Liquid fertilizers are the most immediate and effective way to make nutrients available to your rose. This method is recommended at two-week intervals and produces the best roses. We recommend Proven Winners 24-12-17.

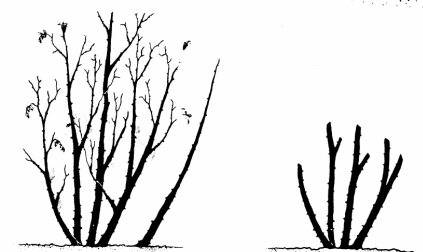
## Irrigation

Water is necessary for all life forms. Your rose needs about one inch of water per week in the normal growing season; more water if weather is exceptionally hot.

Your rose will become stressed during periods of drought. It may appear wilted and will not be able to adequately prepare itself for survival over winter.

Overhead irrigation: water sprinkled over the rose's foliage can encourage disease. Water by hand with a hose by aiming water under the foliage. The use of a water wand can reduce splashing.

Drip irrigation is the best method. It keeps water off your rose's foliage and saturates the root zone. Water evaporates less and soaks the ground more thoroughly, nutrients disperse evenly and this keeps your rose healthier.



## Pruning

Spring is the best time to prune your roses. Hybrid teas, grandifloras, miniature and some shrub roses should be pruned as follows.

1. Remove dead, spindly, and weak wood.
2. Open up the center of the plant by removing crossing and crowded canes.
3. Prune so the topmost bud is facing outward from the center of the crown.
4. The more severely pruned, the less blooms, but they will be larger and stronger.

For climbers, many antique and shrub roses, follow the first three steps above but do not prune healthy canes back severely since most of these cultivars bloom predominantly from side buds on the previous seasons canes. The goal for these roses is to be able to over-winter them while keeping as much healthy wood as possible.

Rejuvenation pruning is started after the roses have established themselves well. One fourth to one third of the oldest canes are pruned at their base to encourage new strong vigorous healthy canes.

In summer do little pruning of your rose. Eliminate spent blooms, and broken canes, allowing the outward facing spent blooms to remain if rose hips are desired.

## Cutting roses

Roses for your home should be cut in the late afternoon when the plant is at its peak.

Cut when the bud is showing color and the first petals are becoming loose.

To extend the life of your cut rose cut it a second time underwater at a forty five degree angle and keep it in a cool place.

Do not allow leaves to be underwater since they will decompose. Use a cut flower preservative.

## Disease

The best solution is prevention. Selecting varieties with higher resistance to disease can further increase the potential for beautiful healthy roses.

If you followed the information given here, you have given your rose a proper setting with good light and air circulation. You have planted your rose and are watering, feeding and caring for it; you are practicing prevention!

### Some diseases that may occur:

**Blackspot** – is prevalent in roses especially if the foliage is continually wet due to watering or an abnormally wet humid season. Dark circular spots occur on the lower leaves and can spread throughout the plant. The spots grow, and leaves yellow and drop off.

**Remedies** – reduce water to the foliage, reduce rain splash by mulching and stripping away the lowest leaves. Remove diseased leaves, especially in the fall.

**Powdery mildew** – this disease effects only new growth, the new leaflets will be covered in a white haze and be wrinkled and curled.

**Remedies** – provide good air circulation and mulch. Remove the leaflets. Fungicidal sprays can help and are most effective when applied preventatively. Follow the instructions on the labels and rotate chemicals.

## Insects

The most common insects on roses in our area are aphids and caterpillars. They can be controlled by spraying or hand removal. Insecticidal soap for aphids and pyrethrum for caterpillars are excellent botanical insecticides. Periodic inspection, and how much damage you can tolerate, will determine your method of dealing with this problem. For low maintenance, Bayer all-in-one Rose & Flower Care adds fertilizer for 6 weeks while controlling insects and diseases.

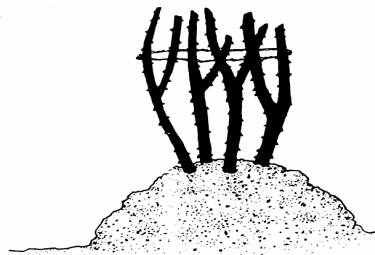
### Deer and rabbits

Deer love roses, all kinds of roses. Fencing or spraying with a deer deterrent spray will be necessary in areas deer inhabit.

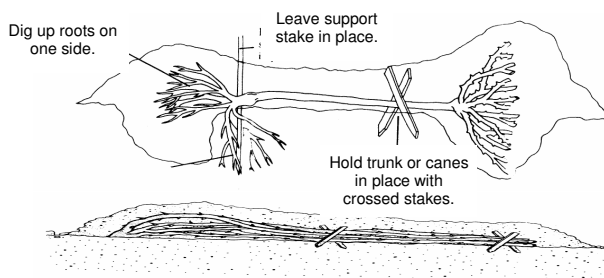
Rabbits like only certain kinds of roses, again fence or spray with a deterrent product.

### Winter protection

Winter protection should consist of planning for the season. Discourage late season growth by ending fertilization in late July. No heavy pruning in late summer or fall. In September don't dead-head blooms. Encourage plant sugars and proper salt levels by good watering practices throughout fall. Prevent damage to the plant from disease and insects.



Insulate more tender roses by mounding up soil in mid to late September, gradually increasing the mound in size to a foot or so for most roses. After the mound has frozen, mulch well with leaves.

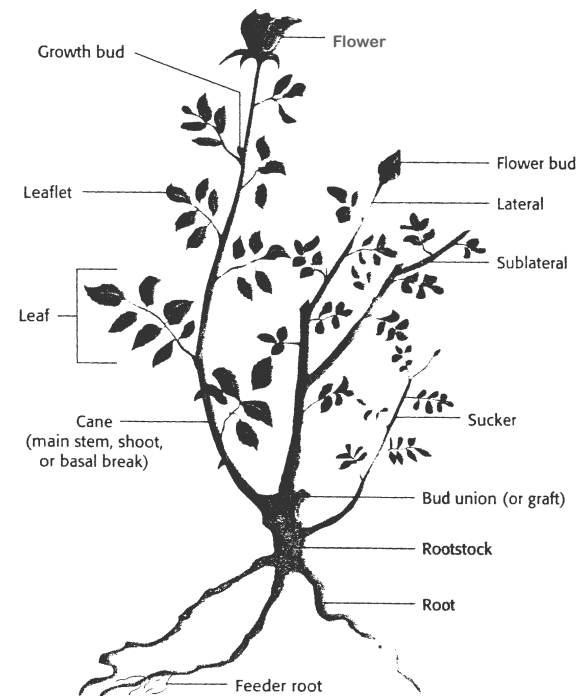


Some climbing roses and antique roses require the burying of their canes since most of next year's blooms occur on older canes. The canes should be carefully bent over to the ground and mounded with soil. The roots on one side of the plant may be loosened to aid in bending the plant over.



Another option is to create an enclosure to hold dry mulch around the canes. Wire or burlap can be filled with corn cobs, straw or wood chips. Do not use leaves as they tend to hold too much water. It is wise to add rat poison at this time to deter the bark from being destroyed by rodents.

# A Guide To Growing Hardy Roses



There are now more varieties of hardy roses than ever before. With increasing demand for roses hardy to the northern landscape many new varieties have come to us from growers in Canada and Europe.

This is a guide to helping you care for the rose you have chosen. Your hardy rose can be a colorful, wonderful addition to your garden and give you years of pleasure with proper care.

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