



ROSE GROWING TIPS

Roses have the distinction of being among the oldest cultivated ornamental plants found in today's gardens. Their flowers are loved for their shape, color and fragrance. Given sunshine and good growing conditions, roses can add beauty to your garden or landscape.

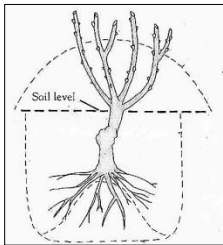
PLANTING

Roses grow and flower best in well-prepared beds. Late April-early May is the ideal planting time for bare-root roses.

- ▶ Site requirements: at least six hours of sunshine, good drainage, freedom from tree roots, protection from strong winds.
- ▶ A good planting mix is equal parts topsoil, sand and humus (peat moss, compost, manure.)
- ▶ The pH of the soil should be close to neutral (6.5-7.0). For pH and nutrient testing go to:

www.soilhealth.cals.cornell.edu/testing-services/individual-soil-analyses

- ▶ Before planting, prune bush to have 3 or 4 strong, non-crossing canes 12" in length. Paint cuts with nail polish, water-proof glue or tree-wound dressing to protect from cane borers.



- ▶ Dig planting holes 18" wide and 18" deep.
- ▶ Place two shovelfuls of the planting mixture in the hole and mix in one cup of bone meal or super phosphate.
- ▶ Form a cone-shaped mound of the mix and place the bare-root rose on

the cone, spreading roots in a natural manner. The bud union (graft) should be 1-2 inches below ground level.

- ▶ Fill the hole half-way with mix, working soil snugly around rose roots. Tamp lightly.
- ▶ Fill hole with water, let drain.
- ▶ Fill hole with planting mix, water again.
- ▶ Do NOT fertilize at this time.
- ▶ Mound soil 8-10 inches high around the canes.

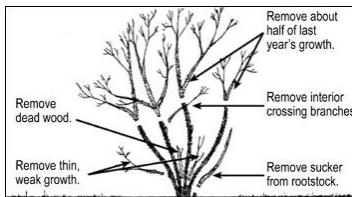
Carefully remove mound when you see signs of new growth (1-2 weeks.)

SPRING CLEANUP

Existing rose beds require thorough 'spring cleaning' to be ready for the growing season.

- ▶ Gradually remove winter protection in early to mid-April. Plants need to be acclimated to spring weather changes by removing soil from mounded plants in several stages; or by removing tops from Kones prior to taking away the Kones.

- ▶ When buds begin to swell it is time to prune back the bushes. Remove all dead or diseased canes at ground level, leaving 3 to 6 strong, healthy canes. Prune these back to



live wood (white pith.) Pruning cuts should be made ¼ inch above the bud at a 45° angle. Select a bud that is facing outward to open the center of the plant to sunlight and

air for good health. Protect all pruning cuts as mentioned above.

- ▶ Remove all pruning debris, leaves and weeds from beds.
- ▶ Mulch to conserve water, keep down weeds and improve the appearance of beds.

WATER

Water is a key ingredient in keeping a rose bush healthy and growing. One to two inches per week is needed. A deep, thorough soaking is better than frequent, light watering. Flow the water gently onto soil surface to avoid splashing the leaves. Use a sprinkler early in the day to allow leaves to dry completely before nightfall. Wet leaves for prolonged periods encourage fungus diseases.

FERTILIZING

- ▶ Fertilize with 5-10-5, 10-10-10, 10-6-4 or similar formula in early spring when 3" to 4" of new growth is starting. Apply 3 to 4 pounds to 100 square feet or 3/4 cup per bush around perimeter of plant. Avoid contact with plant. Then scratch in lightly and water thoroughly. Additional applications should be made monthly during the growing season. Do not apply nitrogen after August 1.
- ▶ Between applications of chemical fertilizer it is beneficial to apply organics such as bloodmeal, manure, alfalfa meal, fish emulsion and compost to build humus in the soil. Lime? Only if indicated by a pH or soil analysis.

PESTS & DISEASES

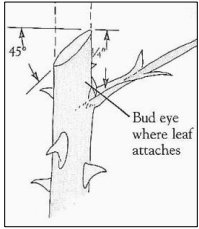
When using ANY spray material, CAREFULLY READ AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

- ▶ Spray with a fungicide every 10-14 days to ward off fungus diseases (blackspot & powdery mildew.) Spray for insects only as needed.
- ▶ Japanese beetles are slow. You can easily pick them off plants with your hands and toss them into a bucket of soapy water.
- ▶ Local nurseries offer a number of environmentally safe products.
- ▶ After using your sprayer, flush it thoroughly with water to remove any spray residues.

PRUNING

Faded flowers must be removed to keep your roses blooming.

► To produce long-stemmed roses, make pruning cuts ¼" above the second five-leaflet leaf. For many flowers, rather than one large bloom, cut the stem ¼" above the first leaf.



► If suckers (long canes with different-looking leaves) emerge from the rootstock of a bush (below the crown of the plant), dig down to the source and remove completely by cutting closely or tearing off.

► After mid-September do not prune off 'deadheads' or prune back to five-leaflet leaves. Allow 'hips' to form after the petals fall from the bloom. By allowing the rose plants to form seeds, you will help steer them into dormancy.

FALL & WINTER ROSE CARE

Late October is the time to:

- Defoliate - strip leaves from the bush.
- Prune canes to a height of 15 to 20 inches to prevent damage by strong winter winds.
- Remove all leaves and fallen petals from the rose beds.
- Spray plants one last time with a fungicide, dormant oil spray or an anti-desiccant spray (*Wilt-Pruf*). This will help prevent the wintering-over of insects and diseases.

By mid-November plants are dormant and the rose garden is ready for winter protection.

- Mound soil over the base of the plant to a height of 12 inches. At year's end an additional cover can be added, using branches from discarded Christmas trees.
- Styrofoam Rose Kones – the canes are tied together with twine. Some soil is mounded over the base of the plant. Provide ventilation by cutting 3 one-inch holes near the top of the Kone sides, or by cutting the top so it can be removed on warm, sunny days. Include 2-3 mothballs to keep out rodents. A heavy stone or brick placed on top will keep the Kone from blowing away.
- Leaves, straw, bark chips will be adequate only for the most hardy varieties or in sheltered locations.

► Climbing roses bloom from wood that is at least two years old – therefore, do not prune canes short at this time. Canes should be wrapped with burlap, then securely tied to their support. Some soil should be mounded over the base of the plant.

SYRACUSE ROSE SOCIETY

The Syracuse Rose Society is the oldest rose society in continuous existence in the United States and is affiliated with the American Rose Society and the Canadian Rose Society.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except December and February) at the Reformed Church (corner of Teall Avenue and Melrose Avenue – one block from James Street.) Our events are open to the public and visitors are always welcome.

Since 1924 SRS members have worked with the city of Syracuse to maintain the Dr. E. M. Mills Rose Garden in Thornden Park. Work parties are held every Wednesday morning from April to October. Anyone interested in donating some time to help in this endeavor is welcome to join us.

MORE HELP WITH YOUR ROSES

► For more information on rose culture or the name of the rose society nearest you, visit the Syracuse Rose Society and the American Rose Society websites and Facebook pages:

Syracuse Rose Society

www.syracuserosesociety.org

www.facebook.com/syracuserosesociety

American Rose Society

www.rose.org

www.facebook.com/rosesociety

► There are many excellent books on rose culture, including:

- ✓ Right Rose, Right Place (Peter Schneider)
- ✓ Everyday Roses (Paul Zimmerman)
- ✓ Roses without Chemicals (Peter Kukielski)
- ✓ Growing Roses in Cold Climates (Hass, Olson & Whitman)



CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Syracuse Rose Society has a number of knowledgeable and experienced ARS Consulting Rosarians and Master Rosarians. These individuals have passed the rigorous requirements of the American Rose Society to receive these designations and are available to answer your questions regarding rose culture.

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