



Caring for your Roses

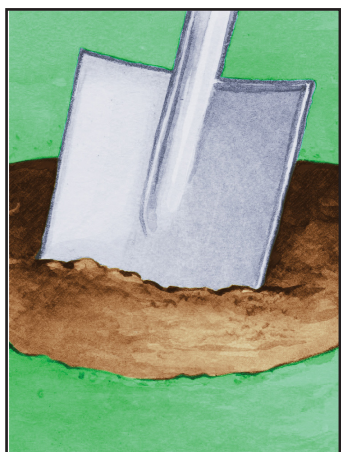


In an effort to ensure your rose growing success, the tops and roots of the roses in your shipment have been professionally pre-pruned. This will help reduce transplant shock and ensure healthy, vigorous top growth.

PLANTING

- 1** To plant right away, remove roses from shipping container and soak the entire plant in a pail of water for at least an hour or two (but no more than 12 hours) just before planting.

If planting must be delayed, open the plastic bag your roses are in and cover the roots with damp newspaper to keep them moist. Partially close the plastic bag, and store in a cool, sheltered area away from sun and wind. Keep the newspaper/roots moist until you are ready to plant.



Tip: For best results, plant on a calm, cloudy day.



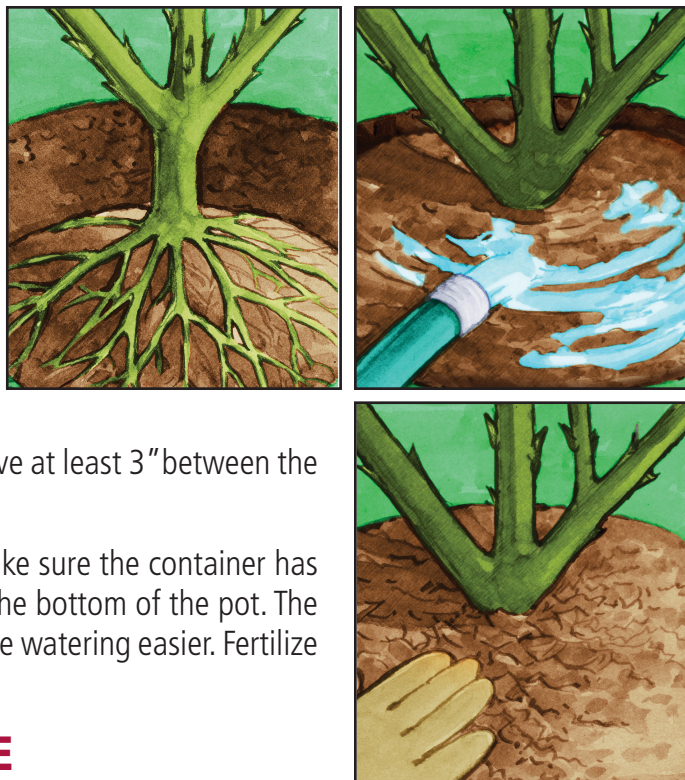
LOCATION: Full sun (or at least 6 hours per day).

PLANTING DISTANCE: 3' apart.

SOIL: Will do well in most garden soils, but adequate drainage is essential.

- 2** To plant, dig a hole 12-19" deep and wide enough so all the roots can be spread out.
- 3** Mix a generous amount of dehydrated manure, garden compost or peat moss with the soil that was removed from the planting hole. Put some of this mixture in a mound at the bottom of the hole and place the rose on top of the mound. The plant's crown should be at ground level for mild climates and 2-3" below ground level for cold climates. Position roots around the mound.

- 4 Fill the hole partially full with more of the soil mixture, and add slow-release fertilizer. Water thoroughly.
- 5 Finish filling the hole with the remaining soil, firming with your fingers to remove any air pockets. Water thoroughly again, then mound up loose soil around the canes to protect your rose from sudden temperature changes.



CLIMBING ROSES: Plant climbers just like other roses, but with special attention to the support they will need as they grow. When training a climbing rose against a wall, leave at least 3" between the support and the wall for proper air circulation.

ROSES IN CONTAINERS: Good drainage is essential. Make sure the container has drainage holes, and add gravel or some coarse material in the bottom of the pot. The soil level should be about 2" below the rim of the pot to make watering easier. Fertilize twice a month after the plants have leafed out.

CONTINUING CARE

WATERING: Roses require the equivalent of 1" of rainfall each week. They will bloom best if their roots are kept moist but not waterlogged. Don't water from overhead; avoid getting foliage wet, as this can encourage disease problems. For containers, check the soil 2-3 times a week to make sure it stays moist.

CULTIVATING: Roses like a loose soil surface so that water can penetrate easily to the root area. Cultivate soil shallowly, enough to keep the surface loose and free of weeds, but not deep enough to injure any roots.

DEADHEADING: Removing faded blooms is the best way to keep your roses blooming all season. Cut back below the first five-leaflet stem to promote strong return growth. If your rose is "self-cleaning," no deadheading is needed; the blooms will drop on their own as they mature.

MULCHING: A 2-4" layer of mulch will help your roses retain moisture, discourage weeds and keep soil temperatures more consistent.

IN THE FALL/WINTER: Trim tall canes which are likely to whip around in the wind. After the first killing frost, place a mound of loose soil at least 8" high over the base of the plant. Cover remaining exposed canes with hay, straw, shredded hardwood leaves (avoid maple leaves) or similar material. In colder areas, place a cylinder of

wire mesh or tar paper around roses. Fill with organic matter.

Winter protection is very important for container roses, especially where temperatures dip below 29°F. Move your pots to an unheated garage or cellar, withhold fertilizer, and water just enough to keep the soil slightly moist.

For climbing roses in areas with hard freezes, bend the canes to the ground, stake them securely, then cover with moist soil followed by mulch material. In milder winters, protect canes from drying winds by wrapping them in moistened burlap tied securely to the support.

IN THE SPRING: Uncover your roses after the danger of frost has passed, and inspect carefully for winter damage. Modern roses should be pruned in early spring when about half of the growth buds swell. First remove all dead or damaged canes, then cut back 1/3 to 1/2 of the previous year's growth until you find healthy, white pith inside the cane.

For more information go to:

www.weeksroses.com

CAUTION: Not all plant material is edible. Although most plants are harmless, some contain toxic substances that can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness or other discomforts. As a general rule, only known food plants should be eaten. In case of ingestion, please contact your local poison control center at once and advise them of the name of the plant ingested. Keep out of the reach of children.