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# Rose Care

## Quick Facts..

- Water deeply and fertilize moderately as needed.
- Avoid the temptation to prune and fertilize too early.
- Treat for diseases and insects.
- Prune spent blossoms to a five-leaflet leaf for better repeat flowering.
- Don't fertilize with nitrogen late in the season.
- Use 6-8 inches of mulch as winter protection around the bud union.
- Water plants during dry winters.

## Site Selection

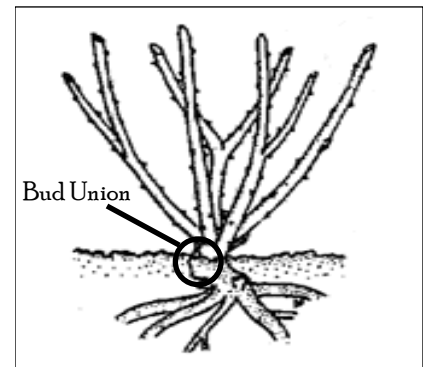
The location of roses is very important. They need full sun, good drainage, and good air circulation.

Locate the plant so that it will receive a minimum of six hours of sunshine. Morning sun exposure is best—it will dry off plants and help prevent diseases. In areas where there is a problem with winds, some protection will be necessary.

## Planting

Potted roses can be planted during the growing season, anytime after the last killing frost. If planting late in the season, the plant should have time to become well established in its new location before the first killing frost of the fall season.

1. Dig a hole twice the size of the container and deep enough that the bud union (graft) on the rose is slightly below ground level.
2. Amend the soil backfill—the soil you've taken out of the hole—with COMPOST. This should be done at a rate of 1/3 compost, to 2/3 original soil.
3. Sprinkle some of the soil in the bottom of the whole and add 1/2 cup BONEMEAL or SUPERPHOSPHATE. Mix well.
4. Carefully remove the container. You may find it easier to vertically slit the sides of the pot and peel it away from the root ball once it is in the hole. Even peat fiber pots must be completely removed. They do not breakdown easily in our Colorado soil.
5. Gently place the root ball into the hole and fill in loosely with your amended soil. Water well. Once the water has drained, add the rest of the soil to bring the level up



to that of the surrounding ground.

6. Mix FERTILOME ROOT STIMULATOR with water (3.5 tablespoons per gallon) and water once more.
7. Keep the plant well-watered, but never soggy, until it is well established. Check soil if necessary to determine watering needs..
8. Cover the base of your new rose with bark mulch—rock mulch retains too much heat. This will help control weed growth, keep the root system cool, and retain valuable moisture.

## Watering

The amount of water needed depends on weather and amount of drainage in your soil. Generally, in most areas of Colorado, the soil around roses needs a thorough soaking at least once a week, but it's always a good idea to dig down around your plants and physically check your soil to see how often it dries out

Water is just as important in winter as it is in summer. Supplemental watering may be needed during dry winter months. Mulches will help reduce moisture loss from the soil.

## Fertilizing Established Roses

As with pruning, do not fertilize too early in the spring. Make the first application about two weeks after the last frost date. Fertilize the second time during or after the second bloom—around the middle of July in most areas.

*Do not fertilize late in the season.* An early freeze can damage the lush growth encouraged by nitrogen fertilizer. Apply the last nitrogen fertilizer no later than two months before the first killing frost in your area. Selection and application of fertilizers are an important part of rose culture. Use FERTILOME ROSE FOOD

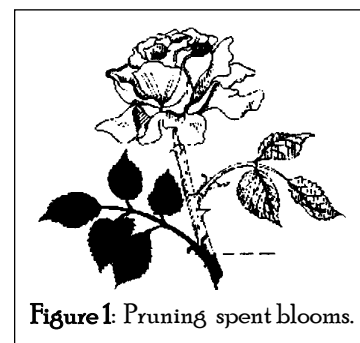


Figure 1: Pruning spent blooms.

WITH SYSTEMIC INSECTICIDE for a carefree growing season. Time-release fertilizers, although probably more expensive, can also be a time saver because only one application per year is necessary. Be careful with fertilizers. Misuse or higher than recommended rates of application can damage your roses.

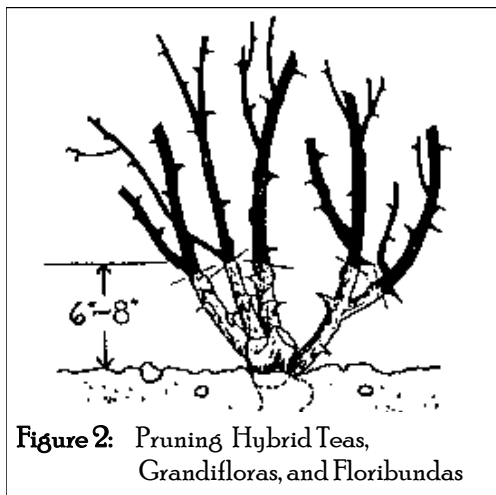


Figure 2: Pruning Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, and Floribundas

## Pruning Established Roses

During the flowering period, spent blossoms should be removed to promote new flowers. Remove faded flowers by cutting the stem to a five-leaflet leaf. Cut canes at a 45° angle with no more than 1/4 inch of stub above the leaf. (See Figure 1)

Pruning established roses varies with the different types of roses. In general, the object is to remove dead or damaged wood; to remove old, weak or undesirable wood; and to shape the plant.

In most areas of Colorado, a substantial portion of the canes of **hybrid teas, grandifloras,**

**floras and floribundas** are damaged by the winter climate. The main job of pruning is made easier by removing the dead portion of your canes in early spring. Close or low pruning (6" to 8") of the live canes is also necessary, but will stimulate new growth. This should be done no sooner than 2 weeks before the last frost date. If pruned too early, this new growth may be severely damaged or killed by late frost. Prune to produce an open center and to shape the plant. After a severe winter, only a few inches of healthy cane may be left on hybrid teas and grandifloras. (See Figure 2)

**Miniatures** are very hardy. Pruning usually only consists of removing dead and damaged wood and thinning and shaping the plant. Prune **climbing roses** to remove dead wood in early spring and old, unproductive canes just after June blooming has finished.

Prune **shrub roses** to remove dead wood and damaged canes in early spring. Thin weak, twiggy growth or any unattractive canes after the June blooming is finished.

### **Winter Protection**

The best protection against winter kill is to maintain healthy plants throughout the growing season and to make sure they do not suffer from lack of moisture during dry winters.

Winter protection is also necessary however. Cover the bud union and lower portion of the canes with six-eight inches of mulch after the plants have become dormant in late fall. This protection is important to protect the vital parts of the plants from extreme changes in temperatures.

### **Insects**

Spider Mites, Aphids, Thrips, and Rose StemBorer (Sawfly) are the most common insects found on roses. FERTILOME ROSE DEFENSE, a Neem oil product, is a great way to prevent & control all of these pests.

**Spider Mites** are tiny insects found on the underside of your rose leaves. They are a sucking insect and will leave tiny white webs wherever they are present. Spider Mites usually can also be kept under control by using a forceful spray of water from a garden hose directed to the undersides of the leaves.

A thorough wash down once a week will control minor infestations. For more serious infestations, a systemic insecticide will be necessary.

**Aphids** come in many different colors, and they are also a sucking insect. They are all very small and can be found in groups on the new leaf growth of your rose. Aphids can be controlled with a solution of regular dish washing soap in water applied with a spray bottle. This home remedy is effective, but must be used as much as 2-3 times a week. Once, they get out of control, Neem oil or a systemic insecticide will be necessary.

**Thrips** are tiny, winged insects about 1/20 inch long. They affect the buds and blos-