



ROSES

Planting, fertilizing and pruning specifics can vary with variety, but here are the basics:

PLANTING:

September and October and Jan through June are the best times to plant Roses, and you can add them all summer long, just be sure to water them regularly.

Roses require a minimum of 6 hours of direct sun each day - the more sun the better! Plant in well-drained soil, and make sure they have good air circulation.

Water well before transplanting. Dig a hole that is 2-3 times as wide and as deep as the plant's root ball or container. Add 1/3 compost, or aged manure and either Rose transplant fertilizer or bone meal to the removed soil to stimulate root growth.

Container Roses:

Carefully remove your Rose from its container. Place it so the bottom of the bud union is above soil and mulch level. Gently spread roots out and fill half the hole with soil. Firm the soil lightly, fill the hole with water and let it soak in. Finish filling the hole with soil and water again.

Bare Root Roses:

The roots of bare root Roses must be kept moist. Soak for one to two hours before planting. Most bare root Roses have a bud or graft union at the base of their trunks. This union must remain above soil and mulch level.

Make a cone of dirt in the bottom of the hole. Holding the plant upright, gently spread roots around the cone, positioning the rose so the bud union is just above soil level. Backfill half-way with soil. Firm the soil lightly, fill the hole with water and let it soak in. Finish filling the hole with soil and water again.

The spacing for Floribunda Roses will depend on the expected height and growth of your variety.

FEEDING/WATERING:

Roses are traditionally heavy feeders. To keep them blossom-happy and healthy, feed once a month from April through August with a granular organic rose food and water it in well. For newly planted Roses, you can begin fertilizing about a month after planting.

Water your Roses deeply once a week with a soaker hose. For newly planted Roses, water twice a week. Avoid overhead watering whenever possible.

GROWING TIPS:

Deadheading your Roses brings on more blooms, so during the summer remove faded flowers by cutting back to the first 5-leaflet leaf below the blossom. Be sure to add some Roses to your summer bouquets!

PRUNING:

Prune in mid-March, but if we are having a particularly cold spring, wait a few more weeks. Avoid the temptation to prune earlier, even if new growth is emerging.

Using bypass pruners, remove all dead, damaged and diseased branches. Always prune canes to 1/4 inch above an outward facing bud. Cut out all weak, spindly and crossing branches and remove suckers at the base. Leave only the most vigorous five to seven main canes, and cut them back to 18 inches.