



Rose Information

Tips on Growing Roses

1. Purchase a rose hardy to your zone. The Chicagoland area is Zone 5B. If you live in northern Illinois you might want to consider buying a Zone 4 rated rose.
2. Know your Rose. A shrub rose is easiest (Knock Out). Most shrub roses grow on their own root and therefore need no special winter protection.
3. A grafted rose not only needs special care but needs to be planted in a specific way. A grafted rose is two roses. First, a hardy root stock and second, a hybrid. The crown, on a grafted rose, needs to be planted 3 inches below ground. This protects the hybrid part of the rose from freezing in our winters.
4. To begin to plant your rose, dig a 2-foot-wide and 2-foot-deep hole. Set aside the dirt. Fill the hole with water, wait about one to two hours to see how it drains. If the water has not drained, dig the hole a bit deeper and add about 2 cups of gypsum to the bottom of the hole. Add some Bumper Crop to the dirt you removed. Put about 2 inches of dirt back into the hole after it has been mixed. Place your rose bush on top of the dirt and make sure the crown is three inches below the ground. Now fill in the hole with the rest of the dirt. Water it in very well. Water your new rose every three days (more water may be needed if the weather is hot).
5. Roses need a minimum of 6 hours of sun.

Fertilizing your Roses

1. You can begin fertilizing when buds form in the spring.
2. Roses are heavy feeders with a great need for nitrogen. Nitrogen stimulates healthy foliage growth. When looking for a rose fertilizer, check the numbers on the package. There will be three, the 1st-N for Nitrogen, 2nd-P for Phosphorous and 3rd-K for Potassium. You will want the first number on the fertilizer to be high.
3. If your rose leaves turn yellow with green veins, it might mean that the rose needs more iron. You can use liquid chelated iron to correct this.
4. An excellent rose fertilizer is Espoma Rose-Tone. Apply 1 ¼ cup of Rose-Tone around each plant when buds form in the spring. Reapply monthly.
5. Always water before fertilizing. A plant stressed from lack of water is more likely to be burned by nitrogen fertilizers, so make sure the soil around the bush is moist before you add fertilizer. Watering after fertilizing helps to move the nutrients into the root zone.

Watering Your Roses

1. Roses need more water in hot weather than they need in cool weather.
2. Avoid getting the foliage wet while watering your rose. Water the base of the rose only.
3. Check the soil. If the top 2-3 inches of your soil is dry, the rose needs a drink.
4. Mulch your roses! Mulching helps conserve water. Organic mulch is best. That includes grass clippings, compost, wood chips, leaf mold, pine needles, shredded bark, and nut shells.



Pruning Your Roses - When and How Much?

1. Pruning helps improve flowering, health of the plant, and directs the way roses grow.
2. Proper pruning results in more or bigger blooms. The further back you cut a rose the fewer, but bigger flowers you will get. Prune less and it results in small, but more flowers.
3. Pruning removes diseased or damaged parts of the plants. It also keeps the plant open in the center increasing air circulation and reducing pest problems.
4. Pruning can direct growth of flowers to a particular spot. The best example is pruning a climbing rose on a trellis or arbor.
5. Do not prune climbers for the first two years as they bloom on the previous years growth.
6. In our zone, if the Forsythia is blooming, you can prune your roses (mid to late April). Avoid fall pruning.
7. Deadheading or removing spent flowers produces more bloom sooner and sturdier stems. Cut back each spent flower to at least the first leaf with 5 leaflets.

Spring Care

1. As the weather warms, slowly remove mounded mulch from around the rose bush.
2. In our zone, if the Forsythia is blooming, you can prune your roses (mid to late April).

Insect and Disease

1. Introduce beneficial insects to your garden.
2. Learn about specific pests and diseases common to your area;
 - a. Blackspot: Caused by high humidity and rain, prune to the healthiest leaves (dispose infected leaves in waste, not in compost).
 - b. Powdery Mildew: Caused by night time humidity that is high and daytime humidity is low (prune and dispose of waste, not in compost).
 - c. Rust: Caused by fungi with moisture, wind spreads the fungal spores to leaves (remove infected leaves and dispose of waste, not in compost)
 - d. Spider Mites: Webbing and yellow of leaves. Use a systemic Insect Killer, Rose and Flower Insect Killer, or Bug-B- gone Garden and Landscape Insect Killer.
 - e. Japanese Beetles: Holes in leaves and flowers. Use a systemic Insect Killer, Sevin Powder or spray.
 - f. Stem Cankers: Yellowish, reddish or brown sunken areas develop on canes caused by fungi during wet or humid weather. Cut out and destroy cankered canes 5 inches below infected area. (do not compost) Disinfect pruners. Spray canes with lime Sulphur.
3. Recommended pesticides and fungicides;
 - a. Rose Pride by Ortho (in spring)
 - b. DY-SISTON
 - c. Sevin Spray or Powder
 - d. Bayer Rose & Flower Care