



# Caring For Roses

**What a beautiful way to add color into your landscape!**

## EXPOSURE

6 or more hours of sun each day.

## PLANTING

We recommend planting your rose with Gardner & Bloome Rose Planting Mix, lime, Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus and Fertilome Root Stimulator. See planting guide for more details.

## SPACING

- Hybrid Tea Roses – 3-5' apart.
- Floribunda Roses – 3-5' apart.
- English Roses – 4' apart.
- Climbing Roses – 5-6' apart.
- Large Shrub Roses – 5' apart.
- Small Shrub Roses – 24 to 48" apart.
- Miniature Roses – 12 to 24" apart.
- Hedging – 3-4' apart. Floribundas work best.

## FERTILIZING

Roses are heavy feeders. It takes a lot of energy to produce those beautiful flowers. In the spring, as the new growth begins, apply Dr. Earth Rose and Flower Fertilizer or Espoma Rose-tone. Follow the recommended rates on the back of the box. Fertilize every 6 weeks. Fertilize for the last time in late August.

## WATERING

Roses are heavy drinkers. Be sure to give them a good deep watering once or twice a week or more depending on your soil type and weather. Roots need air as well as water, so don't keep the soil continually soaked. Allow the top inch of soil to dry out before watering again. Remember, deep watering encourages deep roots. Water at the soil level if possible. If you need to overhead water, do so in the morning to allow foliage to dry off before the night. This will help with disease control.

## WINTER CARE

In November or December, remove any old leaves and rake up debris (dropped foliage) around the plants. **DO NOT PRUNE** your roses unless there is a concern that the canes and branches could be broken by snow, or if you live in a high wind area. Once there has been a couple of good frosts, and/or the foliage begins to drop, apply a dormant spray of Bonide Copper Fungicide and Bonide All-seasons Spray Oil. The oil and copper need to be applied separately, 2 weeks apart.

## MULCHING

Apply 2 to 3 inches of Soil Building Compost in a 3 foot diameter around the base of your roses. This will help reduce evaporation, retain moisture and prevent a crust from forming on soil so that water and nutrients can get to your rose's roots.

## WINTER PROTECTION

Generally in Zone 7 or 8 winter protection is usually not necessary. However, roses can benefit from applying mulch over the crown area if a cold winter is forecasted.

## SPRING PRUNING

Usually done around President's Day weekend.

**Why prune?** To shape your roses, to encourage the production of large, long-stemmed flowers from hybrid teas, and abundant clusters of flowers from floribundas. Pruning helps create a healthy rose by removing dead, diseased, damaged, and crowded or crossing canes. By thinning canes from the interior of the plant, air circulation is increased. By removing dead or damaged canes, you can increase the overall well-being and beauty of your roses.

## WHAT TO CUT

Remove all dead branches and canes. Healthy growth will generally appear green or red. Dead canes will generally turn gray or brown. Cut canes low on the plant – as near to the base as possible. Also, remove damaged canes, and ones that cross or rub. Remove all branches that are spindly. You want branches of sufficient size to support your new spring growth. Also, remove any suckers or root stock shooting out of the ground below the graft on grafted varieties.

## HOW MUCH TO PRUNE

**Light pruning:** For more abundant blooms on smaller stems a light pruning is done. The canes should be reduced by 1/3 of their original height.

**Medium pruning:** Generally removes more foliage leaving up to 8 to 10 well-placed canes – fewer on hybrid teas. Canes are reduced by 1/2-2/3 of their original height. When you do medium pruning it produces fewer but larger flowers on longer stems.

**Heavy pruning:** Heavy pruning is usually done on damaged or overgrown roses. Cut back by 3/4, pruning a few of the oldest woody canes and the thinner, spindly canes. Leave healthy, moderate-sized canes.

## Climbing Roses:

Prune climbing roses only as needed to control their size. Remove the older wood, usually pruning back on lateral canes only.

## SUMMER PRUNING – DEADHEADING

Dead head to remove old or spent flowers from the bush. This helps ensure a strong re-blooming. When dead heading, you need to look at the rose leaves. Cut the stem 1/4" above a full leaf, that is one having 5 leaflets, leaving at least two sets of leaflets on the stem from which you are cutting, making sure the leaflet faces outwards. Cut at an angle sloping downward toward center of the bush. Make sure to cut stems back to wood that is strong enough to support a new rose. Deadhead for the last time in late August to mid-September.

## CHECKLIST

- Gardner & Bloome Rose Planting Mix
- Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus
- Fertilome Root Stimulator
- Dr. Earth Rose and Flower Fertilizer or Espoma Rose-Tone
- Bonide All-Seasons Spray Oil
- Bonide Copper Fungicide
- A good pair of sharp pruners (Felco or ARS)
- A good pair of Loppers for the large canes
- Gloves

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