



ROSES

Rose bushes come in a variety of forms, from climbing roses to miniature rose plants, blooming mainly in early summer and fall.

We supply these in the spring as bare roots when plants are fully dormant, well before they have leafed out. They'll look like a bundle of sticks on arrival. Note that they are not dead—simply dormant. Check that the packing material is moist and keep them in a cool dark place until ready to plant.

Prepare the Soil

Roses prefer a near-neutral pH range of 5.5–7.0. A pH of 6.5 is just about right for most home gardens (slightly acidic to neutral). An accurate soil test will tell you where your pH currently stands. Acidic (sour) soil is counteracted by applying finely ground limestone, and alkaline (sweet) soil is treated with ground sulfur.

Planting Tips

Plant roses where they will receive a minimum of 5 to 6 hours of full sun per day. Morning sun is especially important because it dries the leaves, which helps prevent diseases. Roses grown in partial sun may not die at once, but they weaken gradually.

The ideal soil is rich and loose, with good drainage. One of the worst mistakes you can make is to not provide adequate drainage. Soak bare-root roses in a bucket of water for at least 24 hours before planting. Soak the newly planted rose with water.

Don't crowd the roses if you plant more than one rose bush. Roses should be planted about two-thirds of the expected height apart. Old garden roses will need more space, while miniature roses can be planted closer. Space between plants allows for good air circulation.

SHRUB ROSES & CLIMBING ROSES

Once received make sure roots are kept moist. **Soak roses for at least 24 hours** (can be as long as 3 or 4 days) before planting (roots totally submerged in water). Plant in a well prepared soil. If the rose is grafted, (knot at base of stems) make sure you bury the graft 10 cm (4 to 6 in) deep. Roses grow best in full sun and good air circulation. Moisture is very important during the first year, generous waterings 2-3 times a week for first 6-8 weeks. Dig the hole big enough to accommodate the roots and fill with water once before planting. Make sure roots are not crammed into hole. Firm the soil around the roots and water thoroughly. Fertilize regularly for stronger growth and more bloom. Water generously before freeze-up in fall. The best protection is extra soil or leaves raked over roses to help catch the snow. Remove covering as spring warms up. Most shrub roses are grown on their own roots (see above), if so, there is no need for pruning suckers. Prune out any deadwood and inward growing branches. Prune to keep desired shape. **DO NOT PRUNE BACK IN THE FALL.** Each spring prune back excess deadwood to green portion of stems, generally 1/3 to 1/2 back. Climbers - Provide support for branches and train accordingly.



HYBRID TEA ROSES

Once received make sure roots are kept moist. Soak roses for at least 24 hours (can be as long as 3 to 4 days) before planting (graft and roots totally submerged in water). Plant in a well prepared soil. Roses grow best in full sun and good air circulation. Moisture is very important during the first year, generous waterings 2-3 times a week for first 6-8 weeks. Space plants 45 cm (18 in) apart. Plant roses deeply, **THE GRAFT MUST BE AT LEAST 10 CM (4 IN) BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE SOIL.** Dig the hole big enough to accommodate the roots and fill with water once before planting. Make sure roots are not crammed into hole. Firm the soil around the roots and water thoroughly.

-PRUNE THE PLANTS DOWN TO ABOUT 10-15 CM (4-6 IN) HIGH, DIRECTLY AFTER PLANTING.

A pruning cut should be made just above an outward facing bud, slope the cut upward 1 cm (1/4 in). Fertilize regularly for stronger growth and more bloom. Water generously before freeze-up in fall. The best protection is extra soil or leaves raked over roses to help catch the snow. Remove covering as spring warms up. Prune back again in the spring as buds swell. **DO NOT PRUNE BACK IN THE FALL.** Make sure that you cut back any growth from below the graft, as this is the root stock and it will take over the plant.

Some rose lovers credit their prize-winning blossoms to bananas. Sort fact from fiction, and discover which secrets are worth following.

Bananas

A dose of phosphorus promotes flowering. Many rose lovers count on banana peels to provide a bit of phosphorus to plants, using two to three skins weekly per rose plant. Put bananas to work for you with one of these methods:

Chop banana peels and bury beneath a rose (in the area beneath leaves, but not against the stem). Dig carefully to avoid disturbing roots. Bury peels about 4 inches deep to outsmart digging critters.

Pulverize peels in a blender, adding water if needed. Allow the solution to sit for 15 minutes. Apply directly to soil beneath a rose. Toss any solid residue onto your compost pile.

Alfalfa

Alfalfa provides solid nutrition to roses, supplying nitrogen, calcium, iron, phosphorus, and other nutrients, including a fatty acid known to promote plant growth. Work alfalfa gold into soil around roses (1 cup per large bush; one-half cup for miniature roses).