

STEP-BY-STEP

Caring for Roses

- MULCHING** A mulch serves as a layer of insulation over the soil to keep it cool in the summer and warm in winter, and it will also keep weeds down. If a very thick layer of mulch is used in the winter, take off some to make it only 1-2" deep in the summer.
- WATERING** If your roses are planted in a soil with excellent drainage, a very slow deep soaking once a week is sufficient. When the weather is very hot, a deep soaking twice a week may be necessary. Water in the morning when the sun is up so that any moisture on the leaves will dry in the sun as soon as possible. The longer moisture stays on the leaves, the greater the chance for mildew.
- FERTILIZING** Feeding should begin in March and continue through August. We recommend Rose and Flower Organic Food, to be applied once a month.
- DISEASE & PESTS** Powdery mildew, Rust, and Black Spot - spray with an organic fungicide. Aphids, Thrips and Mites - spray with (if you are already using Systemic Rose and Flower Care, no spray is needed unless infestation is severe) whichever produce you sue, spray every 7-10 days until symptoms are gone. A general rule is to spray at least 3 times to prevent disease and treat insects.
- CUTTING ROSES** OFF THE BUSH—Cut just above an outward facing leaf with 5 leaflets. Cutting at this point allows the plant to quickly develop a new flower from the same stem; and the growth that resumes from this point will have the strength to produce the best flower. FOR BOUQUETS—Cut roses in the early morning while the air is still cool, or at dusk. Select a rose that has just opened or is halfway open. Carry a bucket of warm water with you and place roses in water immediately after cutting.
- DEAD HEADING** Remove the flowers from the bush as soon as they begin to fade. The energy of the plant will then be directed toward developing another flower, rather than seeds. Remember to prune just above an outward facing leaf with 5 leaflets.
- PRUNING** Some light pruning can be done in late fall, but harder pruning should be done in late february or March. 1.) Remove any dead canes down to the crown. 2.) Remove any weak, thin, or spindly growth that tends to crowd the center of the bush. 3.) Open the center of the bush to allow for sun and air circulation and for easier spray application. 4.) Remove any suckers—shoots that grow below the bud union. 5.) A general rule: remove 1/3 to 1/2 of last year's growth, make sure to leave 3-5 canes and on those canes 3-5 healthy buds. 6.) Always cut above an outward facing bud and make your pruning cuts at an angle about 1/4" above the bud. 7.) Use a pruning seal on all older canes. CLIMBING ROSES - Don't prune climbers (except to cut dead wood out) for the first 2 or 3 years. This will allow them to establish mature canes. Climbers that bloom only once should be pruned after they bloom; climbing hybrid teas and continuous-blooming climbers are pruned early spring while dormant. HEDGE ROSES - Prune hedge roses very lightly; remove any dead wood and suckers.
- LOCATION** When choosing a growing area remember to plant roses 3 feet apart from center to center to allow adequate air circulation, sun exposure, and room for spraying. Give roses full to half day sun.
- PLANTING** Our roses have already been planted in pulp pots. To plant your rose, just follow these easy steps. 1) Loosen all metal tags and labels so they will not cut into the plant. Check labels periodically so they will not girdle the branch. 2) Select a location for your rose that has at least 6-8 hours of sun. 3) Dig hole twice as large as pot, carefully measuring the depth, making sure the graft area is above the soil line. Gently remove the rose from the pulp pot, placing the plant in the ground. Fill around the rose with a mixture of soil and organic rose fertilizer about half way, then water and let settle. Repeat until soil has filled the hole. Water thoroughly. 4) Mulch with compost to maintain even moisture.

