

# Planting and Care Of Roses

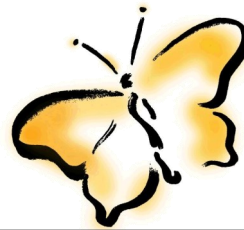
# Campbell's

CULTIVATING IDEAS

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Roses require at least 6 hours of sun daily. Morning sun is essential as is good air movement through the foliage to keep it dry and discourage diseases. Plant the bushes away from large trees and shrub masses which compete for nutrients, moisture, and sun.

## PLANTING

To plant your roses, dig the hole 6" or so wider than the pot and 1-2" deeper. Remember, roses do best with good drainage, so if possible, such as when planting a bed entirely of roses, it would be wise to amend the soil with organic material, such as peat moss. A 2" layer of peat moss tilled 6" deep makes for a good soil medium. Next, take the plant out of the pot and set it in the hole. Be sure the plant is deep enough so when the soil is filled in, the bud union or graft is covered with at least 1" of soil. Start to backfill with loose soil. When the hole is approximately one-half full of fill soil, add some high phosphate fertilizer to encourage root growth. Then finish adding soil and water. Mulch around the base of the plant with at least 2-3" of shredded bark or KoKo mulch. This helps to conserve moisture, even out soil temperature, and helps control some diseases.

## WATERING

We can't tell you how much or how often to water. The frequency of watering (as well as the amount) depends on soil type, climate, and growth stage of the plant. Normally, a rose should receive the equivalent of 1" of rainfall per week, all at one time. Hot and dry weather may call for watering every 3-4 days, or more often during periods of drought. When you water, water well, soaking the soil to a depth of 8-10". A light sprinkling is worse than no water at all. The most effective system for watering rose beds is with a slow drip irrigation system at the base of the plants. This system does not wet the foliage or spread the mulch, thus reducing disease. It saves you time, energy, and even money because less water is used in the long run.

## FEEDING ROSES

Roses are a heavy user of nutrients. Regular applications of rose food are required for optimum growth. Roses should be fed beginning in early spring as the bush puts out new leaves, then continuing every 6 weeks, or even once each month, through mid summer. Rose foods with a higher phosphorous content are usually considered best because phosphate encourages the development of larger, more beautiful blooms. Starting August 15th through September 1st, discontinue regular rose food and feed with bone meal or superphosphate for fall root development.

## DISEASES AND INSECTS

Prevention is the key word. A rose that is growing vigorously can withstand more injury from unwanted invaders than a rose that is under stress from lack of water or nutrients.

Avoid watering the entire rose bush, which can cause mildew. Water only the soil underneath the bush. When watering, avoid splattering soil or mulch. This spreads powdery mildew and blackspot.

Prevent disease and insect problems by setting up a regular spraying or dusting schedule. Start with a dormant spray in late winter or early spring and then follow up with a spraying or dusting program using multi-purpose pesticides at least every couple weeks.

Insects and pest damage may be minimized by using systemic insecticides with plant food every 6 weeks (dug in around the base of the plant and watered in). The systemic approach gives the bush internal protection from sucking type insects like aphids, mites, leaf hoppers, and white flies. However, it has no chewing insect or fungus control, so your regular spraying or dusting program should be followed.

### **WINTER PROTECTION**

After the ground freezes, roses should be mounded up around the base with soil or mulch 6-8" deep. Add straw over the mound to protect against fluctuating temperatures and freezing and thawing of soil around the canes. At this time, limbs that are apt to be damaged by winds or heavy snow load should be pruned down except for climbers and tree roses.

Unmound in the spring after soil thaws and frost danger is past. Exercise care when you remove winter cover in the spring. Don't get too anxious as tender growth is easily killed by even a light freeze. After roses are unmounded, bush types should be pruned down to 6-10" and dead wood and weak canes should be removed. For climbers, remove dead or diseased canes, but don't prune last year's growth until after it blooms.

### **GUARANTEE**

**Due to our unpredictable Nebraska winters, our roses are guaranteed for 60 days from date of purchase. Any rose that fails to grow, we will gladly replace one time, free of charge.**