NOSEGAY GARDENS

ESTD HIGH QUALITY PERENNIAL PLANTS 2022

Let's Talk Roses!

Roses are sun-loving plants that require consistent moisture and fertile, well-draining soil to perform.

Site Selection

Roses should be planted in a location that receives at least six hours of direct sunlight per day, with eight or more hours preferred. Morning sun is especially beneficial, as it helps dry foliage and reduce disease pressure. A suitable site will also provide good air circulation, well-draining soil, and adequate space for the plant's mature size. Avoid areas with persistent shade, standing water, or heavy root competition from nearby trees and shrubs.

Plant Size, Growth Habit and Classification

Always plan for the plant's full size at maturity. Roses should be sited according to their mature height and spread.

Hybrid teas originated with the introduction of 'La France' in 1867, a cross between European garden roses and Chinese reblooming roses. They typically reach 4 to 6 feet in height and are grown for large, high-centered blooms.

Floribundas are derived from crosses between hybrid teas and polyantha roses. They are generally more compact, growing 2 to 4 feet tall, and produce flowers in clusters with a more continuous display.

Grandifloras are the result of crosses between hybrid teas and floribundas. They tend to be taller, often 4 to 6 feet or more, combining the larger bloom form of hybrid teas with the clustered flowering habit of floribundas.

Shrub roses include a broad group of modern and old forms, often ranging from 5 to 8 feet or larger depending on the cultivar, with a more natural growth habit. This group includes English shrub roses bred by David Austin.

Climbing roses require structural support and may exceed 10 to 20 feet. Their canes are trained rather than self-supporting. Miniature or patio roses bred for smaller sizes are well suited to containers or small spaces.

Landscape roses, including series such as Drift and Knock Out, are bred for durability, disease resistance, and low maintenance. They are typically low to medium in height and used in mass plantings or foundation landscapes.

Species roses are the naturally occurring wild types.

An example is the Nootka rose (Rosa nutkana), a Pacific Northwest native. These roses are highly resilient and play an important role in breeding.

Heirloom or old garden roses refer to classes that predate modern hybridization, generally prior to 1867. They are valued for fragrance, form, and historical significance, and often have different pruning and bloom habits than modern roses.

Proper selection and spacing improves air circulation, reduces disease pressure, and supports balanced growth.

Selecting Plants at the Nursery

Select plants with healthy, evenly colored foliage, strong well-developed canes, and a balanced structure. Active buds or new growth are good indicators of vigor.

Avoid plants with yellowing or heavily spotted leaves, blackened or shriveled canes, or signs of severe dryness. If the root system can be observed, it should be light in color and fibrous rather than densely circling or compacted.

Soil Preparation (In-Ground)

Roses require deep, fertile, well-draining soil that allows root development to at least 18 inches. Dig a planting area approximately 2 feet wide and loosen compacted soil at the base and along the sides.

Backfill using primarily native soil amended with 20 to 30 percent compost. Avoid heavily amended backfill or pure compost, as this can restrict root movement and disrupt drainage.

Container Planting

When growing roses in containers, use a well-draining potting mix and select a container of sufficient size, generally a minimum of 5 gallons. Ensure that adequate drainage is present. Container-grown roses require more consistent attention to watering and fertility, as they rely entirely on the provided growing medium. Fertilize regularly to maximize flower production and repot as needed.

Irrigation Management

Roses require consistent soil moisture throughout the growing season. Water should be applied deeply and less frequently to encourage deep root development. Approximately one inch of water per week is sufficient during dry conditions. Soil should remain evenly moist but not saturated, as prolonged waterlogging can lead to root stress.

Feeding and Fertilization

Roses are heavy feeders and benefit from a steady supply of nutrients to support growth and flowering.

Nutrient availability is optimized when soil pH is maintained between 6.0 and 7.0. Fertilizer should be applied every four to six weeks during the growing season and followed by thorough watering to move nutrients into the root zone.

Compost or composted manure may be applied annually at bud break to support soil structure and micronutrient availability. Additional inputs such as alfalfa meal, kelp, or fish-based fertilizers can be used to supplement fertility.

Cultivation and Mulching

Light surface cultivation can be used to break up soil crusting and improve the movement of air and water into the soil. Care should be taken to avoid disturbing shallow feeder roots.

Mulching helps conserve soil moisture and regulate temperature. Organic materials such as compost, leaf mold, bark, or wood chips may be applied in a layer approximately 2 to 3 inches deep. Mulch should be kept several inches away from the canes to prevent rot.

Pruning

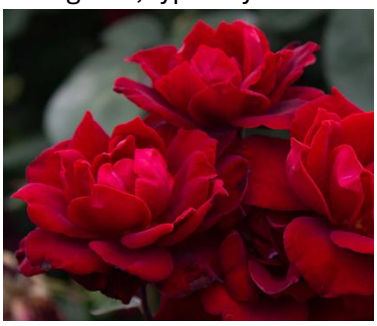
Pruning is used to maintain plant structure, improve airflow, and support flowering. Dead, damaged, or diseased wood should be removed first, followed by any crossing or inward-facing canes.

Cuts should be made to be approximately one quarter inch above an outward-facing bud to direct new growth.

Hybrid teas are generally pruned more heavily, while floribundas and shrub roses benefit from more moderate pruning. Climbers require both pruning and training, with main canes directed horizontally to encourage flowering along lateral shoots.

Deadheading

Deadheading improves plant appearance and encourages continued flowering in repeat-blooming varieties. Spent blooms should be removed by cutting back to a strong outward-facing bud, typically located above a five-leaflet leaf. In cluster-flowering roses, individual blooms or entire clusters may be removed once flowering is complete.



Pests and Diseases

Roses support a range of both beneficial organisms. They also host a range of pests and diseases. Common diseases include downy mildew, powdery mildew, rust, and black spot, all of which are encouraged by poor air circulation, prolonged leaf wetness, and plant stress. Common pests include aphids, thrips and whiteflies, which often attack due to lack of light, inadequate irrigation or improper fertilization. Cultural management is always your first line of defense against pests and disease.

Cultural Management

Effective management begins with prevention. Infected leaves should be removed promptly during the growing season, and fallen leaf litter should be cleared in the fall and discarded rather than composted. Proper spacing and pruning improve airflow, while watering at the base of the plant reduces leaf wetness. Maintaining consistent fertility and moisture supports overall plant health and resilience.

Treatment

When intervention is necessary, treatments should be applied in a targeted manner and according to label directions. Products should be rotated to reduce the risk of resistance, and unnecessary broad-spectrum applications should be avoided. Options include horticultural oils, neem-based products, sulfur or copper-based fungicides, and biological fungicides used preventatively. Most treatments are more effective when applied prior to infection, particularly when environmental conditions favor disease development.

Looking Ahead

Successful rose growing is an ongoing process of observation and adjustment. Noting how individual varieties perform under your specific conditions, including vigor, disease resistance, and bloom quality, helps inform future decisions.

Sharing observations with other gardeners and nurseries contributes to a broader understanding of regional performance. Stay aware of new varieties, as breeding continues to improve disease resistance and adaptability.

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