



# PLANTING & CARE OF *Dormant Roses*

What You'll Need:	
Essential Items	Desirable Items
Soil Enhancer	Soil Pep
Root Stimulator	Rose Food w/Systemic
Soil Sulfur	Rose gloves
Organic Rose Food	Pruners



The rose is known as 'the world's favorite flower'. In our harsh climate, extra care must be given to ensure success with dormant roses. One thing to consider when planting roses is the amount of sunlight they will receive. Roses require at least 6 hours of direct sunlight every day. They also need good air circulation to help prevent disease. Following are a few more tips to help you succeed in your efforts to grow beautiful hybrid roses.

**Amending the Soil:** Roses prefer a well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Before planting roses, amend the bed with **T&C Soil Enhancer 50/50** with soil. Because our soil is mostly alkaline, add **Soil Sulfur** according to directions.

**Planting:** Dig the hole at least 6 inches wider than the pulp pot and deep enough to cover the bud union (graft). When planting hybrid roses in our climate, it is important that the graft be 2 inches below ground level. This will help protect the plant from dying back to the rootstock in severe winters resulting in wild rose re-growth.

Make several slits in the sides and bottom of the pulp pot to encourage the decomposition of the pot. Remove the top rolled ring and any other portion that may be above ground level. Place pulp pot in hole and backfill with amended soil ensuring graft union is at proper depth. Water the rose to remove any air pockets. A root stimulator solution can be applied at this time.

**Mulching:** A 2" layer of **Soil Pep** aids in water retention, weed prevention, and keeping roots cool during hot weather. It also gives the rose an attractive, finished appearance.

**Watering:** Roots like a good, deep soaking to promote deep rooting. Drip or soaker hoses are the best way to water roses because it allows the water to soak in and keeps water off the foliage, thus discouraging disease. Overhead sprinklers are okay, but be sure to water in the morning so the foliage has a chance to dry. This will help prevent disease. Be careful not to over water. Roots need air as well as water, so don't keep the soil continually soggy. If the soil is moist just below the surface no water is needed.

**Fertilizing:** Roses prefer a balanced fertilizer with extra iron. We recommend **Fertilome Rose & Flower Food w/systemic**, or **Garden Elements Organic Rose & Flower Food**. Fertilize as roses begin to wake up from winter, again after the first bloom, and again 6 weeks later. We don't recommend feeding roses after late July. Canes need time to slow their growth and properly harden off before winter.

**Pruning:** No pruning is needed at time of planting. For ongoing care, prune in the early spring as new growth starts. Prune out weak or winter-damaged wood. Prune 1 to 2" below the damage. Remove any crossing branches. Always leave the newest, largest, healthiest canes. Also, remove any suckers growing from below the bud union. When pruning, cut ¼" above buds that face to the outside of the bush. Climbing roses usually bloom best on 2 year old wood, so prune very little. Take out spindly new wood, older wood that is not blooming well, and damaged canes only.

**Pest/Disease Control:** Apply **Fertilome Rose Food w/Systemic Insecticide** every six weeks to prevent aphids and other insects. Supplement with **Bonide Systemic Insect Spray** as needed. Prevent disease with regular applications of **Fertilome Liquid Systemic Fungicide**.

**Winter Care:** In November, prune bush back to 18" high. Mulch 6-12 inches deep with Soil Pep, or dry leaves. Rose collars or rose cones are helpful. If using rose cones, be sure they are well ventilated.

**Cutting for vases:** When choosing a rose for cutting, choose a variety with full petal, double blooms. Cut roses is mid-morning after the morning dew has dried. Use a sharp knife or pruners. Always leave at least two sets of five leaflets on the stem to renew growth and ensure future flowering. Cut each stem on an angle. After you have finished cutting, re-cut stems under water to aid in absorption of water. Also cut off any leaves that will be below the water line.

## **Rose Classifications**

**Hybrid Tea** – The most popular type of rose. Generally, grows tall and stately with large, well-formed blooms and long stems suitable for cutting.

**Floribunda** – Lower growing than hybrid teas, floribundas bloom heavily, producing clusters of flowers. Use floribundas in a massed bed of color and border plantings.

**Grandiflora** – Grow as tall as hybrid teas with the same form, but with clusters of blooms on shorter stems. They create a mass of color in the landscape, and are also great for cutting.

**Climber** – Vigorous growers, they add drama and interest to the landscape. Best planted in a somewhat protected area (except hardy shrub types). Will climb a trellis or trail along a fence.

**Miniature** – Grow only 2-3' tall and are covered with perfectly formed, miniature blooms. Ideal for containers or rock gardens, at the base of larger plants, mixed into the the perennial garden, and for narrow borders and other limited spaces.

**English** – Crosses between old and modern roses. Charming, old-fashioned form with large, very double blossoms and a rich fragrance. Bloom continuously throughout the summer.

**Own Root** – Grown on their own root from cutting rather than grafted. Tend to be hardier. Includes all hardy shrub roses and select varieties of Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, and Grandifloras.

**Hardy Shrub** – These modern adaptations of hardy old fashioned shrub roses generally have smaller and less double flowers but need little if any winter protection or disease control.

Revised 3/27/2013

### **Town & Country Gardens, Inc.**

5800 S. Yellowstone Hwy. ▪ Idaho Falls, ID 83402 ▪ 522-5247

1300 East Oak ▪ Pocatello, ID 83201 ▪ 232-7985

[www.tcgardens.com](http://www.tcgardens.com)