



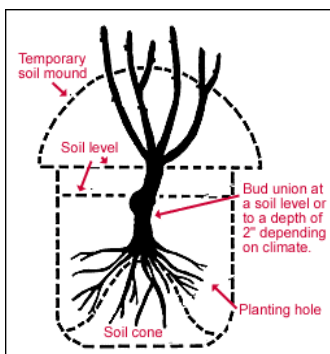
# Rose Care

## NEW PLANTING

**Selection** Modern roses (hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, polyantha, miniature, mini-flora, climber, and shrub roses), old garden roses, and species roses all have specific attributes that need to be considered when choosing a rose for the garden. These characteristics include the obvious, flower color, size, and fragrance; however, other less obvious characteristics need to be considered. These include cold hardiness, disease resistance, mature size, need for support, and care requirements. The gardener needs to consider the attributes that are important to him/her before purchasing a rose. Only grade number 1 plants should be purchased. In recent years, roses grown on their own roots, not grafted onto rootstock, added another attribute to the list to be considered when buying a rose bush.

**Placement** Roses need at least six hours of full sun a day and will do better with more sun. Early morning or late afternoon and evening sun are best, but with adequate water roses will do well in mid-day sun. The site needs to have good air circulation to help prevent fungal infections. The soil needs to drain well but retain moisture. To achieve this in our heavy clay soils, the soil should be amended to a depth of 18 to 24 inches with organic matter, i.e., composted leaves, cotton bolls, or manure and/or milled peat moss, etc. Before amending the soil, samples for a soil test should be obtained and submitted for testing.

**Planting** In our area, roses are best planted in the spring. Many rosarians prefer bare root roses. Plants should be refrigerated until ready to plant. After soaking in water for 12 to 14 hours, the plants can be dipped into a 1 to 10 solution of household bleach to kill any harmful microorganisms present. Dead, damaged, weak and/or crossing canes should be removed; the remaining 3 to 5 healthy canes should be pruned to 8 to 12 inches. Dead or damaged roots should be removed also. Plants can be planted whenever the soil can be worked.



An 18 by 18-inch planting hole needs to be dug with a mound of soil in the bottom, Figure at left. The roots should be spread over a mound of soil with the bud union 1 to 2 inches below the soil level. Partially fill the hole with soil, firm the soil around the roots, and water. Fill the remainder of hole with soil, firm it, and water. To prevent desiccation, because of our spring winds, the plant should be covered with soil until the first leaves appear.

Container grown plants should be planted after May 1. This is especially true for plants forced into bloom in the South and shipped to our area. These plants are not acclimated to our conditions and may not do well if planted too early. For container plants, the hole needs to be deep

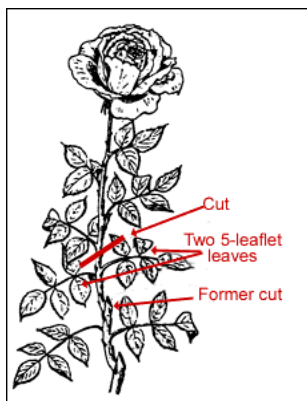
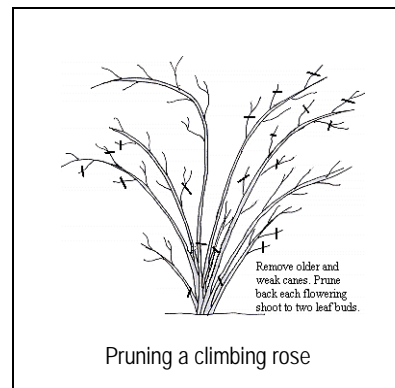
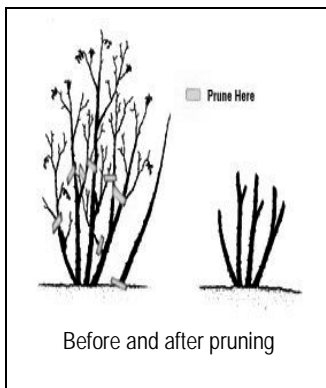
enough, so the bud union is 2 inches below the soil line. The plant needs to be removed from the container with minimal disturbance to the root ball. Sometimes the container can be cut and removed after the plant is placed in the hole.

Newly planted roses should be fertilized after they are established as evidenced by new leaves and canes. Some rosarians recommend waiting to fertilize newly planted roses until after the first flush of bloom.

## ESTABLISHED ROSES

### Spring Pruning

Remove winter protection in mid-April. At that time, prune out all weak, dead, damaged, and/or crossing canes, Figure above left. Prune hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora, polyantha, miniature, and mini-flora roses to 8 to 12 inches leaving 3 to 5 healthy canes. Repeat blooming climbing roses should be pruned in the spring, Figure above right. However, except for the removal of dead, damaged, and/or weak canes, once flowering climbers should be pruned after the blooms fade. Shrub, old garden, and species roses should be pruned in the spring to maintain size and shape.



### Deadheading

Fading or spent blooms on repeat blooming rose bushes should be removed, deadheaded, as shown on the left, throughout the growing season. After mid-August in our area, deadheading should be discontinued and only the spent petals removed. This allows the plant to conserve energy for the winter. Blooms can still be cut for bouquets!

**Fertilization** A good fertilization program is based on the soil test results. Roses prefer a pH in the range of 6.0 to 6.5. Most of the soils in our area have a pH higher than that. Because nitrogen (N) leaches from the soil, it is always needed. Phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are usually present in adequate quantities in our soils. To lower the soil pH, agricultural sulfur or aluminum sulfate can be used without the addition of nitrogen. Ammonium sulfate can be used to lower pH if nitrogen is also needed. Additionally, nitrogen can be applied by using a fertilizer with the formula of 25-7-7 or 27-3-3 or a similar formula. It is added at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds of nitrogen, 8 to 16 pounds of fertilizer, per 1000 sq. ft or about one-fourth to one-half cup per rose bush 4 times a season, i.e., mid-April, mid-May, mid-June, and mid- to late July. Fertilizer should be worked into the soil and watered in.

## COMMON ROSE PROBLEMS

**Diseases** Powdery mildew, blackspot, botrytis blight, downy mildew, rose mosaic virus, rose rosette disease and galls.

**Insects** Aphids, thrips, spider mite, beetles, leaf roller, leaf cutter bee and rose midge.

**Spraying** Spraying with a fungicide and/or an insecticide is usually required to keep roses looking great. Several different types of sprayers are available. For a small number of roses, less than 50, a hand carried, pump-up tank sprayer, Figure at right, is usually adequate. For a larger number of roses, a pump-up backpack sprayer may be needed. For very large plantings a power tank sprayer may be necessary. Regardless of the equipment used, spray should be mixed using protective clothing, gloves and eye protection. Only the amount of spray needed for the application should be mixed. And, care should be taken to minimize the amount of spray drift.

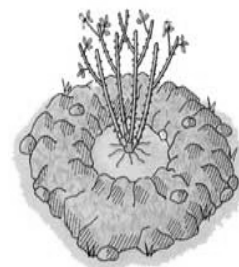


Before roses are uncovered in the spring, all debris from the previous season should be removed. After the bushes are uncovered, the canes and mulch should be sprayed with a fungicide. These practices will help control fungal infection, especially blackspot. Once growth starts in the spring, roses should be sprayed with a fungicide every 7-14 days, depending on the severity of the infection and the effectiveness of the treatment. Generally, it is recommended to alternate treatment with two fungicides for blackspot control. These fungicides include mycobutanil, triforine, chlorthalonil, mancozeb, and maneb. When daily temperatures routinely exceed 85 F, treatment with a non-phytotoxic fungicide, such as, dimethyl phanate necessary. Most fungicides that are effective for blackspot are also effective for the control of powdery mildew and downy mildew. Check the label to be sure the product you are using is labeled for use against these other infections.

Insect infestations can be controlled with treatment at the first sign of problems. The least toxic insecticide labeled for control of the pest causing the problem should be used. Red spider mites are not insects, so they need to be controlled with the use of a miticide. Or, they can be washed from the underside of the leaves with a water wand. This treatment will need to be repeated every 3 days or so until the infestation is controlled.

**Watering** The common wisdom is that roses need an inch of water a week. If is insufficient, then watering is necessary. Overhead watering should be avoided if possible. Watering should be done early enough in the day so any water on the foliage can dry before nightfall. This will help prevent fungal infections. If in doubt about the effectiveness of a watering program, soil moisture can be checked. Soil should be moist at least 8 inches below the surface after watering. One good soaking is better than several “dampenings.”

**Mulching** Mulch with 2 to 3 inches of organic matter to keep the weeds in check and to keep the soil cool and moist. Keep mulch away from the base of the canes, Figure at right



**Winter Protection** After several hard freezes in the fall and after all the leaves are striped from the bushes and all the debris is removed from the bed, grafted rose bushes need to be covered with 8 to 12 inches of soil, mulch, or leaves to protect the bud union from freezing and thawing during the winter and spring. Own root rose, if left uncovered, may die back to the ground over winter. But, because they are on their own roots, regrowth will be true to the variety. In the case of grafted plants, regrowth may be from unwanted rootstock.

**Good Roses for the Kansas City Area**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Bloom Color</b>
'Abraham Darby'	Shrub	Pink blend
'Child's Play'	Miniature	Pink blend
'Carefree Wonder'	Shrub	Pink blend
'Chrysler Imperial'	Hybrid tea	Red
'Dortmund'	Hybrid Kordesii	Red
'Double Delight'	Hybrid tea	Red blend
'Electron'	Hybrid tea	Deep pink
'Europeana'	Floribunda	Dark red
'First Prize'	Hybrid tea	Pink blend
'Giggles'	Miniature	Medium pink
'Gold Medal'	Grandiflora	Medium yellow
'Granada'	Hybrid tea	Medium yellow
'Heritage'	Shrub	Light pink
'Knockout'	Shrub	Pink
'Linville'	Miniature	White
'Minnie Pearl'	Miniature	Pink blend
'Miss All American Beauty'	Hybrid tea	Dark pink
'Mister Lincoln'	Hybrid tea	Dark red
'New Dawn'	Climber	Light pink
'Peace'	Hybrid tea	Yellow blend
'Pink Peace'	Hybrid tea	Medium pink
'Pristine'	Hybrid tea	White
'Queen Elizabeth'	Grandiflora	Medium pink
'Rio Samba'	Hybrid tea	Yellow blend
'Scentimental'	Floribunda	Red blend
'Secret'	Hybrid tea	Pink blend
'Sexy Remy'	Floribunda	Medium pink
'Sunspire'	Floribunda	Deep yellow
'New Dawn'	Climber	Light pink

**Johnson County K-State Research and Extension**  
**11811 S. Sunset Dr. Suite 1500**  
**Olathe, Kansas 66061-7057**  
**(913) 715-7000**  
[www.johnson.k-state.edu](http://www.johnson.k-state.edu)

**Johnson County Extension Master Gardeners**  
**(913) 715-7050**  
**[garden.help@jocogov.org](mailto:garden.help@jocogov.org)**