

Rose Information

By: Jackson and Perkins

General Guidelines

- Roses need at least 4 to 6 hours of sun
- Roses prefer rich, loamy soil
- Roses cannot stand in water, even during the winter when they are dormant
- Roses need their own space, without competition from other plants. Leaves of other plants should not touch the roses unless you are forming a hedge with roses.
- Plant your roses where falling ice and snow will not damage plants.

Rose Spacing

This chart gives you an idea of average spacing, but roses will vary in size and habit, depending on climate and location. Adjust for your conditions – in colder areas, you may want to space roses closer; in warmer areas, further apart. Use the closer spacing if you mix different roses in a bed, and prune the larger plants and cut blooms frequently to control their size.

Type	Spacing	SQ.FT/Plant
Hybrid Teas Grandifloras Large Shrubs	30" to 36"	6' to 10'
Floribundas Small Shrubs	24" to 30"	4" to 6'
Hedges	24"	4'
Miniature Roses	12" to 18"	1' to 2'
Climbers	4' to 5'	12' to 15'
Tree Roses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard • Patio • Miniature 	3' to 5' 3' to 4' 2.5' to 3.5'	10' to 15' 10' to 12' 6' to 11'
English Roses	36"	10'
Ground Cover Roses	48"	12'

Planting

If you have stored your roses for a few days, soak the roots in water again before planting. It is important to give roses plenty of moisture to help get them off to a good start.

- 1) Dig a hole 12 to 18 inches deep. Make sure it is wide enough to allow the plant's root system to easily develop after planting. This will make a stronger plant. Loosen the bottom and sides with your shovel.
- 2) Fill the hole with water. It should drain in one hour. If it doesn't, dig deeper and improve the drainage – or mound the soil and plant the rose in a raised bed. Work in one part organic material – peat moss, leaf mold, compost, sawdust, or well-rotted manure, to two parts soil. A pH of 6.5 is best for roses. Adjust if necessary; your local agricultural extension service will be able to assist you.
- 3) Trim off any broken roots or stems. Build a mound of soil in the hole to support roots and to hold the plant at the proper height, with bud union at ground level (or 1 to 2 inches below in colder areas).
- 4) Holding the plant firmly in place, fill the hole two-thirds full of soil mixture and tamp down lightly to remove any air pockets. Fill with water and let soak in, then fill the hole with soil mixture and firm gently.
- 5) Your plants will leaf out faster if you mist the canes with water as often as possible while they are getting started. Roses need plenty of moisture, both above and below the soil, to fully develop in their new location.

Tree Rose Planting

Insert a stake before you place the rose roots in the hole. Stake your tree rose to give it support. Fasten with soft, non-binding ties. Be sure to mist your tree rose often to stimulate growth.

Container Planting

Choose a wood or ceramic container for maximum air circulation to the soil, or a plastic container that is large enough to easily accommodate the plant's roots. For miniatures and small shrub varieties, a container 10 to 14 inches across and 12 to 14 inches deep is a good size. For larger varieties, containers should be at least 16 inches across and 16 to 18 inches deep. The container should have holes for drainage, so the plant's roots do not stand in water.

Use a planting mix of equal parts sandy loam soil and organic matter, or a common potting soil that you can get at any nursery or garden center. Add about ½ cup of bone meal fertilizer to the planting mix

Form a mound of planting mix in the container and set the plant so the crown of the plant is an inch or two below the rim. Fill the pot with planting mix up to the crown, then press down gently. Water thoroughly. The planting mix should settle an inch or two below the rim to make watering easier.

Misting

After soaking the roots and planting your roses in the ground, mist the canes often until the plants leaf out.

Watering

Roses need good drainage – roots should never sit in water. The best way to water is the drip method. The bed is soaked slowly and thoroughly to a depth of 5 or 6 inches with a small flow of water. Sprinklers are fine as long as the bed receives enough to water the top 6 inches of soil and as long as the foliage can dry quickly. If you do water from above, do so in the early morning so the foliage has a chance to dry. This discourages disease.

To see if your roses need watering, scrape the surface of the bed. If you don't feel any moisture an inch below the surface, it's time to water.

Container Watering

Be sure there are drainage holes in your container. During the season, watering twice a week should be enough. However, you should check the planting mix – if you feel no moisture an inch below the surface, it's time to water.

Fertilizing

It's important to replace the nutrients your roses take from the soil through the growing season. Once your roses are fully leafed out, apply a balanced fertilizer to each plant, in a circle a foot or two from the base.

Your local county extension office should be able to recommend a schedule for fertilizing in your area. The list below shows an average schedule that you can adjust according to your needs.

Container Fertilizing

After the new growth is off to a good start, fertilize with a liquid plant food. Use half the recommended amount until the plant is growing well, then increase to the full-recommended amount and use according to label directions.

Fertilizing Checklist

After roses are in full leaf, apply a balanced fertilizer to each plant, following label directions.

- 1) Fertilize when plants are in full leaf.
- 2) Fertilize again after first bloom.
- 3) Fertilize 6 weeks before anticipated first frost (but not after Sept. 1 in most areas)
- 4) For proper hardening of canes in winter, do not fertilize late in the fall.

Mulching

Mulching is very useful for growing healthy roses. A 2 to 3 inch layer of compost, ground corn cobs, straw, or similar material discourages weeds, aids water retention and helps keep the roots cool during hot weather. Since some mulching materials will take nitrogen from the soil, replenish it with a high-nitrogen fertilizer.

Cultivating

Cultivate roses as shallowly as possible, just breaking the outer crust of the soil. This method will permit air to enter the soil and will not injure any roots growing near the surface. Never allow the soil to become hard at any time during the growing season. If you mulch your plants as described above, you should not have to cultivate at all.

Transplanting

The best time to transplant roses is in early spring, while they are still dormant. Prepare the planting holes in the new site ahead of time so that the plants will not be out of the ground too long. Prune the bush varieties back to 18 to 24 inches to make them easier to handle. Soak the soil thoroughly the night before, then dig the plants with a soil ball attached and move them to their new location.

Spraying or Dusting

When and how much to dust or spray your roses depends on where you live and the type of roses you have planted. Humid climates can have problems with blackspot, while dry climates with cool nights can encourage mildew. Hedge and shrub roses generally need less spraying than conventional roses.

Quick Reference Chart

TIME OF YEAR	WHAT TO DO	HOW TO DO IT
Start in spring when buds begin to swell.	Use spray or dust regularly, once every 7 days. Apply fertilizer around each plant.	DO NOT spray or dust in midday, when sun is hot. Dust when dew is on roses. Scatter rose food around each plant, cultivate lightly and water.
From appearance of first blooms until hot weather begins.	Use spray or dust regularly, once every 10 days.	
Immediately after roses start to bloom.	Fertilize plants again.	
Whenever temperature rises about 80 deg. F in midsummer	DO NOT spray or dust except after a rain or irrigation.	
When temperature is below 80 deg. F in late summer	Use spray or dust regularly, once every 10 days.	
Six weeks before first fall frost	Apply last fertilizer for the season.	
Whenever it rains.	Spray or dust within 24 hours, continue regular schedule.	

IF YOU USE DUST: Be sure that both upper and lower leaf surfaces are covered with a thin film of dust.

IF YOU USE SPRAY: See package for detailed instructions on how to mix. Keep sprayer moving to keep spray well mixed. Apply mist spray thoroughly from beneath so that plants are covered with a thin film of spray residue. See package for detailed instruction.

Pruning

Why Prune? We prune roses to promote their health, vigor, and to give them direction – to tell them how and where to grow. Pruning gives the plants a shape, a style, removes unproductive wood and provides good air circulation.

When to Prune

The best time to prune is before new growth starts in the spring, sometimes after the last killing frost. Once growth is 2 to 3 inches long, you should not prune, since there can be significant damage from breakage. Fall pruning is necessary only when plants are extremely tall, to prevent wind damage during the winter.

What to Prune

Weak or diseased canes. Winter-damaged wood, which looks brown on the outside, light brown and dry when cut, should be cut off 1 to 2 inches below the damage. Any branch crossing or rubbing another should be removed – always leave the newest, healthiest cane.

When in Doubt

As a general rule, if you're not sure what to cut, wait. You can always make more cuts later when the bush has leafed out and you can see its shape more easily.

How to Prune

- 1) Trim twiggy top growth by about a third so you can see the structure of your plant.
- 2) Take out dead wood, canes that cross the center of the bush, and any shoots (suckers) growing below the bud union.
- 3) Shape the plant by removing some canes. You are safe in cutting back to 5-10 strong canes.
- 4) Cut ¼" above dormant bud eyes that face the outside of the bush. New growth will come from these eyes.

Pruning Climbing Roses

These roses usually bloom best on two-year old wood, so prune very little. Take out any spindly new wood, older wood that is no longer blooming as well as it should, and damaged or diseased growth only.

Pruning Hedge Roses

Treat as you would any hedge, shearing off the top third of the plant, leaving the rest to grow.

Pruning Tree Roses

Prune back by about half, to encourage new growth and keep the compact, rounded form.

Pruning English Roses

During the first two seasons, allow the plant's basic framework to develop, pruning out only the small spindly shoots. Thereafter: for a smaller shrub with larger, better quality flowers, prune by one-half; for a larger shrub with more flowers, prune back by one-third.

Pruning Sucker Growth

Any shoot that grows from below the bud union of a grafted rose bush is called a sucker. These should be removed, since a sucker will not produce the same blooms as the upper part of the plant, and will rob it of strength.

After Pruning

To help reduce dieback and protect canes from borers, paint the pruned ends with a commercial cane sealer, white household glue or clear nail polish after cutting. This is added protection against disease.

Tips for Great Cut Roses

- Cut roses in early morning when the moisture level and sugar content are highest.
- Use a sharp pruner or knife.
- Make an angle cut just as the outside petals begin to open. (Always leave at least two sets of five leaflets on each stem, so new flowers will develop.)
- Remove thorns and leaves that will be below water level in the vase, and immerse in warm water.
- Recut stems under water.
- Add a floral preservative to the water to make blooms last longer.

For prize-winning exhibition roses, we recommend disbudding. Pinch out the side buds while they are small, leave only the top bud. This will concentrate the plant's energy into producing fewer – but larger – blooms.

Getting your Roses ready for Winter

Strong, healthy roses are the most resistant to winter damage. Leave the last blooms in the fall on the plant to form hips. This will slow growth and help them go dormant. Rake off and remove all leaves from the rose bed to prevent diseases. Apply a dormant spray or oil such as lime sulfur to help get rid of diseases that might return in the spring. Even during the winter, your roses need water to keep them healthy and prevent them drying out. If there is not rain or snow for more than a few weeks, you should plan to water.

Hybrid Teas, Floribundas and Miniatures

Roses do not need to be trimmed unless they are liable to be damaged by winter winds. Apply a final spray or dust to the canes and soil surface. In severe winters cover the crown of the plant with a soil mound about 6 inches high, then cover the entire plant and soil mound with hay or straw.

Climbing Roses

In severe winter areas, we suggest staking the canes to the ground and covering them with straw. Cover the base of the climbers with soil, then tie the canes and wrap them in burlap to protect them from whipping in the wind and from drying out.

Tree Roses

If winter temperatures in your area fall below 10 deg. F, you should protect your tree roses. Remove the stake and lay the rose down. If the trunk cannot be bent without breaking, lift one side of the root ball so that the trunk can be laid flat. Cover the top, trunk, and exposed roots with soil, and then mulch with straw.

Shrubs and Hedges

These are hardy plants, but if temperatures regularly drop below 20 deg. F, for extended periods of time, some simple steps should be taken to prepare them for winter. You should mound the plants with straw or hay as you would regular bush roses. If they are excessively tall, trim them back a bit to prevent wind damage.

Roses in Containers

If the temperature drops below 28 deg. F, move container roses into an unheated shelter. Be sure they are not near a window, where warm sunlight might start plants growing. Water lightly – enough so the soil doesn't dry out. Don't fertilize during the winter. When warm weather comes again, put the containers outside and care for them as before.

Special Note for all Roses in Winter

Remove the protective covering from your plants before they start to sprout again in spring. Leave the mulch on until all danger of frost has passed.

Types of Roses

Patio Shrubs

These hardy and hard-working shrubs are between floribundas and miniature roses in size. They have dense growth and bloom freely all season. Perfect for low borders and hedges, foundation plantings and filling large beds with color. Ideal for planting in pots on the patio or deck for portable color.

Floribundas

The floribunda is not the second largest class of roses. They are lower-growing than hybrid teas, and bloom heavily, producing clusters of flowers from June till frost. Use floribundas in a massed bed of color and in border plantings. The plentiful blooms make great bouquets.

Hedge Roses

Hedge roses are popular for their colorful beauty, their versatility and low maintenance. Simplicity Hedge Roses are the most well known. Millions have been planted, more than any other variety. Use hedges for privacy screens, along property boundaries, to brighten views and conceal foundations. Let them grow tall, or trim with hedge shears to keep them low and tidy.

Rugosas – Hardy Shrub Roses

These are the roses that have charmed generations. Hardy and vigorous, they lend lots of color and a country charm to any garden. Ideal for cottage gardens, to anchor a perennial border, or for a mass of color on the side or back of the house, or along the foundation.

Antique Roses

These roses have been cherished by generations for their casual form, delightful fragrance and old-fashioned charm. They add interest and a historical feel to any landscape. Use them anywhere you want masses of carefree color, as the basis for a perennial garden, or for a delightful specimen planting near the house.

English Roses

These are crosses between old and modern roses popularized by David Austin. They have a charming, old-fashioned form and rich fragrance, yet they have the vigor and continuous bloom of contemporary roses. Designed to be massed together – in a cottage garden, or near living areas where their fragrance can truly be appreciated.

Hybrid Teas

Hybrid teas are the most popular type of rose. They are generally tall and stately, with large, well-formed blooms and long stems suitable for cutting. They can be used as single specimen plantings, or as the featured plants in a mixed bed of roses.

Grandifloras

Grandifloras 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. Use them to create eye-catching color in a bed or border, or as stars in your perennial garden.

Tree Roses

Tree roses are created when a rose is budded onto a sturdy, straight cane. The result is an elegant rose, which can be the focus of interest in any setting.

Standard tree roses (36") are gorgeous flanking an entry or lining a walk; Patios (24") and Miniatures (18") are delightful on porches and patios, or in the front of a mixed bed.

Climbers

Climbers are vigorous and easy to grow, adding drama and interest to your landscape. They will bloom heavily for years, climbing a trellis, trailing along a fence, or accenting a wall with a splash of color. Give them plenty of room and fertilizer.

Miniature Roses

These bushes grow only 2' to 3' tall, literally covered with perfectly formed, miniature blooms. They are ideal for containers or rock gardens, at the base of larger plants, and for narrow borders and other limited spaces.

Troubleshooting

To see a chart that contains common solutions to problems you may encounter in your rose garden, please refer to the back of the Jackson and Perkins leaflet.