



A ROSE IS A ROSE ...

So you think you would like to have some Roses in your garden...but oh, they are so much work and they need special care! Not true. Roses are no more difficult than most other flowers.

There are several classes of roses, and knowing a little about each class will help you choose the type best suited to your garden.

Shrub roses are similar to other flowering shrubs. The flowers tend to be small or of medium size and they may bloom once in the season or all season long. These are usually very durable plants being quite hardy and disease resistant.

Climbing roses have long, arching stems, which can reach up to 6 feet or more in length. You will have to fasten the stems to a trellis or arbor, and they do need special winter care.

Old garden roses are generally a very tough plant; they have been around for generations. There is a great deal of variation in plant and flower size as well as blooming period.

Miniature roses usually bloom nonstop throughout the summer. These can be used as an edging or in containers. Because they are small and delicate their winter survival may not be great unless given extra protection.

Hybrid tea, floribunda and grandiflora roses are the most commonly used plants. Grandifloras are generally taller and can be used towards the back of the garden. Hybrid teas work well in the middle of the bed, while the shorter floribundas can be used towards the front.

Roses thrive in full sun, give them at least 5 to 6 hours a day and preferably the sunlight of the early afternoon. They do enjoy a little shade in the heat of the afternoon. Be sure there is good air circulation around the roses to allow the foliage to dry quickly and help prevent disease. Winds can be damaging to the foliage in the summer and the canes in the winter so if necessary provide some protection.

A well-drained but moist soil is best for the roots of roses. Add at least 25% organic matter to the soil at planting time. A good mix is equal parts loamy soil, organic matter, and builders sand. Roses prefer a slightly acid soil.

Roses are very precise in their planting requirements. If you spend the extra time and money to do this properly then your roses will thrive. Select the proper location and dig a hole at least 16 inches deep. Prepare enough soil mix to fill this hole. Between the roots and the canes is a bud union (this is a swollen area just above the roots) this must be planted 2 – 4 inches below the soil level to prevent

ROOTS & SHOOTS



winter freezing. Place the roots into the hole and gently fill with soil, pressing the soil firmly around the roots. When the hole is $\frac{3}{4}$ full add water and let it be absorbed into the soil. Continue filling the hole and adjusting the bud union to the correct level.

Roses are thirsty plants and need a steady supply of moisture. Provide at least 1 inch of water per week. It is best to water the soil, not the foliage of the plant. Moisture on the foliage can encourage the development of disease.

Feed your roses in the spring when the foliage begins to develop, again when the first flower buds begin to develop, and lastly about 2 months before the first frost.

Roses benefit greatly from mulching. It helps control weeds, maintains moisture in the soil, and aids in preventing the spread of disease.

Plants are leggy and fail to flower

Not enough sun

Blossoms don't open fully

Overexposure to cool temperatures or dampness

New foliage dies or off-colour

Overfertilizing

New roses growing very slowly

Roots dried out before or after planting

Pale or yellow spots on leaves, leaves curled and distorted

Aphids

Holes in leaves, flowers or buds

Beetles, caterpillars, slugs or snails

Canes girdled, leaves wilted

Borer

Leaves stipple white

Leafhopper

Leaves stuck or rolled together

Leafroller



Leaves yellow, plant stunted
Nematodes in the soil

Flower buds and leaves turn black and die
Rose Midges

Leaves discoloured, small bumps on leaves and canes
Scale

Leaves stippled with tiny yellow dots and webby foliage
Spider Mites

Brown edges on blossoms; buds open partially or not at all
Thrips