

ROSE BUSH CARE

LIGHT & LOCATION

Rose bushes require at least 6 hours of direct sunlight daily. Adequate air circulation is essential. Do not place the bush too close to the house or garage and leave plenty of room between plants. This will reduce many insect and fungus problems.

PLANTING

- Dig a hole approximately 18" wide and 18" deep.
- Mix organic matter (compost, cow manure, or peat humus) with the soil you have removed.
- Remove rose bush from plastic container and place it in the hole so that the graft (the round ball that the canes are growing out of) is at the soil level. Shrub roses and Flower Carpet roses grow on their own roots. They do not have a graft.
- Loosely fill in the hole with the soil you had previously removed and amended.
- Water thoroughly and add more soil to adjust for settling.

WATERING

Newly planted bushes need a steady amount of water. Water daily if the weather is warm and dry. Water at the soil level, avoiding wetting the leaves. This will help to minimize the spread of disease.

FERTILIZING

A healthy, well-fed plant is better able to resist attacks of pests and diseases. We recommend using a rose and flower food with systemic insecticide.

PESTS & DISEASES

It is important to keep a close watch on your plants and catch any problems early. Regular (once per month) use of the above mentioned systemic insecticide will control most insect problems. The most common disease problems are powdery mildew and blackspot. Correct watering techniques will help prevent the spread of these diseases (see watering instructions above). Diseases need to be treated with a fungicide rather than an insecticide.

PRUNING

Your rose bush will not need any pruning when you purchase it. For existing roses, cut away any deadwood in early spring. Also cut out any weak, spindly or deformed growth. When cutting roses to bring indoors, or to prune away flowers that have finished blooming, use a sharp pruning shears and cut at a 45° angle just above a five leaflet leaf.

**Our roses are all Grade 1, top quality plants from the best growers.
Because of our unpredictable Wisconsin weather,
we do not guarantee that they will survive the winter.**



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PREPARING ROSE BUSHES FOR WINTER

The purpose of winter protection for roses is to prevent fluctuation in temperatures. The goal is for them to freeze and stay frozen.

The following important winterizing steps should be taken after the first killing frost (usually between October 15 and November 1 in the Milwaukee area):

- 1) Diseased leaves should be removed and raked away before winter.
- 2) The graft (the round ball that the canes are growing out of) is the most important part of the plant to protect. This can be accomplished by creating a 6" high mound of extra soil around the center of the plant, at the base.

This step should be done regardless of whether you plan to use a rose cone.

3) Fall pruning:

Climbing varieties do not need pruning in the Fall. Most bloom on the growth from the previous year, so pruning would eliminate potential flowers. In the Spring you will be able to see any dead wood that needs to be pruned out.

All other varieties of hybrid roses can be pruned moderately in the Fall (think "knee high"). If you are using a rose cone, prune just enough to fit the cone over the bush.

Shrub roses and Flower Carpet roses can be pruned for shape at this time.

- 4) If using a rose cone, wait until the cold weather is here to stay. Mound soil at the base of the plant (see step 2 above). Apply cone and use a heavy stone or brick on top to weigh it down. Remove cone when weather warms in early Spring.



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