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ROSES

TYPES OF ROSES

MINIATURE - Usually very small floribundas or hybrid teas. Less than 3' tall.

FLORIBUNDA - About 3' tall. Many small flowers in clusters, compact, easy to care for.

HYBRID TEA - 4' to 5' tall. Long narrow buds open into large many petaled blooms - one to a long stem.

GRANDIFLORA - Up to 6' tall. Best attributes of hybrid teas and floribundas. Beautifully formed flowers are born in clusters on long stems.

TREE ROSE - Any rose (usually hybrid tea or floribunda) grafted to a tall trunk or standard.

CLIMBER - 6' to 20' tall. May have any type of flower. Usually grown on a fence, trellis or post. Some climbers bloom only once or twice.



SELECTION

Choose a plant with at least three heavy canes. Color should be green with no die back (blackening from stem tip). Plant should be free of disease and pests.

SOIL

Roses grow best in a slightly acid soil with a pH of 6.5 to 7.0, rich in organic matter. Preparing a raised bed is advised in slow draining, wet locations. The completed beds should be 3 to 6" above the surrounding area. A double row of plants in each bed makes for maximum bloom and easy care.

PLANTING

Select a site that receives at least 6 to 8 hours of sun a day and that is away from the competing roots of large trees and shrubs. Some protection from prevailing winds is also helpful. Most roses should be spaced 24-30" apart. For grafted roses (i.e. most hybrid teas) plant so the bud union or graft is one to two inches below the soil line. Mulch after planting with 2-3" of pine mulch, wood chips or other suitable material that will permit water and air movement to the soil and help to prevent weed growth.

FERTILIZING

Roses benefit from a regular fertilizing program for maximum bloom power. Begin in spring just as buds begin to break and continue till late August / early September. Choose a fertilizer labeled for roses and be sure to follow the directions.

SPRAYING OR DUSTING

Spraying for diseases, especially black spot and powdery mildew, is a must. Start in spring when buds begin to swell. Use spray or dust regularly, once every 7 to 10 days. Do not spray or dust in midday, when sun is hot. Dust when dew is on the plants. If you use dust, be sure that both upper and lower leaf surfaces are covered with a thin film of dust. If you spray, see package for detailed instructions on how to mix it properly. 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 on both upper and lower leaf surfaces.

WATERING

During dry periods, watering bushes will ensure continuous flowering during the main growing season. (Remember - certain climbing roses bloom only in the spring regardless of treatment.) If rainfall is not an inch in 2 weeks, then water the plants thoroughly and deeply. Keep water off the foliage to reduce the risk of black spot and mildew.

PRUNING

Roses need to be pruned to promote a healthy and vigorous plant; also it allows you to shape your rose, remove unproductive wood, and provide good air circulation. The best time to prune is before new growth starts in the spring. Once growth is 2" to 3" 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.

HOW TO PRUNE: Cut just above the nearest live bud - a reddish purple swelling or bump on the cane. It is preferable to choose an outward facing bud, to promote better air circulation. Prune back by about one third, leaving two thirds of the plant to grow and furnish this year's blooms. Prune to a circular shape, remove any canes from the center to provide good air circulation. After pruning, you will have a healthier, well-spaced plant that will produce more blooms.

GETTING ROSES READY FOR WINTER

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 carrying over to next year.

Apply a dormant spray such as horticultural oil or lime sulfur to help prevent some diseases that might return in the spring.

Cover the crown of the plant with a soil or mulch mound about 6 to 8" high, then cover the entire plant and soil mound with hay, straw or more mulch.



*Making the world beautiful
one flower at a time.*