



Dennis' 7 Dees

BASIC ROSE CARE



PLANTING



When: Anytime! Ideal planting in early spring/fall or during cool temperatures

Where: well-drained spot with 6 or more hours of sun exposure per day; provide temporary shade to new plants

In Native Soil

Prior to planting: clean debris from ground and fully hydrate rose; in hot weather, cut back rose by 1/3 or remove all open flowers and mature buds to reduce plant stress and help it adjust

Proper spacing: 3–4 feet between each plant

Add to soil: composted organic material like *G&B Soil Building Conditioner* or *Malibu Compost*; organic, slow-release fertilizer like *G&B Starter Fertilizer* or *Portland Rose Society Organic Rose Food*

In Containers

Container size (deep is better than shallow):

- Mini roses: at least 10–12" deep
- Floribundas: at least 15" deep
- Hybrid tea/shrub roses: at least 18–22" deep

Use premium potting soil: *G&B* or *Baby Bu's Potting Soil*

Tip: If rose is grafted, plant graft union just above soil line; many modern roses are being grown on their own roots instead of being grafted

PRUNING



When: annually in mid/late February to early March (around President's Day)

What: annual pruning (mid-Feb) may be done to maintain plant size/health; deadheading should be done regularly to promote re-blooming; remove spent blossoms by cutting the stem just above a set of 5 leaflets (see below)

Hybrid Tea, Miniature & Floribunda Roses

Desired goal: a durable plant with only the strongest canes emerging from bud union; upper part of plant should mostly be removed, resulting in an open vase shape about 12–18" tall

Step back: examine the entire plant as often as needed

Identify: young, strong canes are green and smooth, while older canes are darker, greyer, rougher, and less productive

Remove:

- Old canes and stumps; remove at origin (bud union)
- Young canes that cross through the middle of the plant; cut back to bud union or major cane of origin
- Crowded canes—leave the stronger of the two present
- Remaining twiggly growth and old leaves (clean from ground; old foliage may harbor fungus, disease, and hungry insects)

Discontinue: 6 weeks before first frost (end of growing season; late August) to "harden off" plant before winter dormancy

Climbing Roses

Remove: old, unproductive canes; no more than 1/3 of a climbing/shrub rose should be removed

Horizontal climbers: only cut back laterals (short, upright shoots from main canes) to about 2 eye buds

FERTILIZING



When: once per month or every 6–8 weeks during growing season (late March or early April to late August)

What: *Portland Rose Society 15-10-10 Fertilizer* (synthetic) or *G&B Rose & Flower Fertilizer* (organic); add supplements or amendments as needed (e.g. lime)

WATERING



When: maintain regular watering schedule until fall rains

How much: plant type, plant size, season, weather, and exposure all affect the amount of water needed by a rose plant

Tip: don't let plants dry out and wilt; stress can result in pest and/or disease issues

WINTERIZATION



When: as soon as night temps drop into low 30s

Prune: to reduce potential wind damage, prune long, floppy growth to about waist high

Clean: dropped leaves from ground—can harbor pests/disease

Lime: apply lime as needed to maintain soil pH through winter

Mulch: apply a thick layer of mulch around the crown (base) of plants; in early spring, move mulch away from plant's crown for proper air circulation and pest/disease prevention

PESTS & DISEASE



Common pests and fungal/disease problems:

aphids, spider mites, caterpillars, bud worms, and rose slugs (sawfly larvae), powdery mildew, rust, black spot

Recommended products/solutions:

- *Beneficial insects:* ladybugs, lacewings, praying mantises
- *Neem Oil* or *MiteX:* Topical pest control
- *Bayer's Insect Disease & Mite Control*, *Bayer All-In-One*, or *Bonide Rose Rx:* Systemic products to protect from multiple problems for 30 days or more
- *Liquid Fence* or *Repels All:* Deer repellants (use regularly)
- *Serenade:* Natural, biological fungal/disease control
- *Infuse:* Systemic fungal/disease control
- *Moisture-Loc:* Protective application against fungus and several insects; also reduces moisture loss
- *Turbo:* Additive for pre-mixed sprays of fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides; improves effectiveness of product

Portland Rose Society: www.portlandrosesociety.org
Fort Vancouver Rose Society: www.fortvancouverrosesociety.org
American Rose Society: www.rose.org