

Basic Rose Care

Roses are the quintessential garden plant, captivating us with their luscious petals and their intoxicating fragrance. We have dozens of varieties for you to choose from at each of our garden center locations, including grandiflora roses, floribunda roses, hybrid tea roses, climbing roses, and carpet roses. No matter the fragrance, color, or disease-resistance you are searching for, there is a rose for everyone!



SUNLIGHT

- **Full sun:** 6+ hours of sun per day; some varieties may tolerate part sun but will have fewer blooms.
- **Provide temporary shade** to new plants during extreme heat.



SOIL & PLANTING

- Ideal planting time is **early spring or mid to late fall**—best selection of varieties available in early spring.

In the Ground

- **In preparation**, water your new rose before planting and remove debris from ground.
- **Allow 3–4 feet** between each rose plant and dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball.
- **Mix composted organic material** like **G&B Soil Building Conditioner** or **Malibu Compost** with native soil.
- **Plant new rose** at the same level as it was growing in the nursery pot and water thoroughly.

In Containers

- **Use a large container** to support good root development.
 - » Mini roses: at least 10–12" deep
 - » Floribundas: at least 16" deep
 - » Hybrid tea/shrub roses: at least 18–24" deep
- **Use premium potting soil:** **G&B Organics Potting Soil** or **Malibu Compost Baby Bu's Potting Soil**



WATER

- **Water thoroughly** in the morning when rain is not present, twice per week in temps under 90°F and more during extreme heat.



FERTILIZER

- **Begin fertilizing** when new growth is at least 2 inches long in March; continue fertilizing once per month until September.
- Use **Portland Rose Society 15-10-10 Fertilizer** or **Portland Rose Society 5-4-4 Organic**.



PRUNING

- **Prune annually** in February to 18 inches tall to maintain plant size and health:
 - » Always cut back to an outward-facing bud with the goal of creating an open, vase-shaped plant.
 - » Remove old, unproductive canes and stumps at the base.
 - » Remove any crossing canes that run through the middle of the plant, and remove weak, crowded canes.
 - » Prune off twiggy growth and old leaves.
 - » Clean old leaves off ground to reduce fungus and disease, and to prevent insects.
- **Climbing Roses:** Create horizontal framework and prune off vertical branches. Flowers arrive on horizontal branches only.
- **Deadhead regularly** by cutting the old flower stem just above a set of 5 leaflets.



WINTERIZATION

- **Prune** long, floppy growth to waist height to reduce potential wind damage, and remove any crossing canes.
- **Clean** dead rose leaves from ground; can harbor pests/disease.
- **Mulch** with compost in a thick layer around roses, but leave a small ring around trunk free of mulch.



PESTS & DISEASE

- **Common pests:** aphids, spider mites, caterpillars, bud worms
- **Common diseases:** powdery mildew, rust, black spot
- **Recommended products and solutions:**
 - » **Beneficial insects:** ladybugs, lacewings, praying mantises
 - » **Neem Oil or MiteX:** Topical pest control
 - » **Bayer All-In-One, Bonide Rose Rx, Infuse:** Systemic protection from multiple diseases and pests, lasts 30+ days
 - » **Wilt-Pruf:** Reduces moisture loss
 - » **Liquid Fence or Repels All:** Deer and rabbit repellants



MORE RESOURCES

- **Portland Rose Society:** Portlandrosesociety.org
- **Fort Vancouver Rose Society:** Fortvancouverrosesociety.org
- **American Rose Society:** Rose.org