

Roses have an undeserved reputation for being hard to grow. In fact, unless you plan to compete in flower shows, roses are no more difficult than most other garden plants.

Choosing roses

You'll likely fall in love with the way a certain rose looks or smells, but there are a couple of other things to consider when choosing roses. Our signs will indicate whether a variety is generally disease resistant, which is especially important if you live in a cool coastal area. You should also consider petal count. Roses with a high petal count (35 or more petals) do well in hot inland areas, but petal-packed flowers may fail to open in cool, humid weather. If you live in a coastal area, consider choosing roses with a lower petal count.

Sun

Roses are sun-loving shrubs. Plant them where they will get at least 4-5 hours of sun daily, or even more if you live in a cool coastal climate. In inland areas, roses may appreciate a little shade in the hottest part of the afternoon.

Watering

Roses are surprisingly drought tolerant, but look best with regular, deep watering. Established roses (planted at least a year) do well when watered 1-3 times weekly spring-fall. Apply 2-3 gallons each time you water to ensure deep watering. Newly planted roses and roses in containers will need more frequent watering.

**For more information
See our care sheet,
Watering 101.**

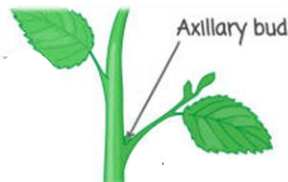
Pruning

Pruning isn't necessary for the health of roses, but unpruned plants become large and woody, and produce fewer flowers. Most roses are pruned heavily when dormant, usually in January. Modern bush roses produce flowers on new growth, so you won't sacrifice flowers if you prune!

Pruning rose bushes

1. Remove all dead or damaged wood.
2. Prune back all canes (the woody stems of roses) down to 12-24 inches, pruning $\frac{1}{4}$ " above an outward-facing bud and angling your cut down toward the center of the plant.
3. Cut out branches that are growing toward the center of the rose.
4. Pull off all remaining leaves, and clean up fallen leaves, flowers, and twigs from around the plant. Dispose of waste since it may carry diseases.

Look for axillary buds in the crook between a rose leaf and the stem to which it is attached.



Pruning Climbers

1. Leave the main canes intact, only cutting back the tips if they have outgrown their structure.
2. Prune the lateral branches (branches growing from the main canes), leaving only 2-3 buds.
3. Every year or two, you may need to prune an aging cane all the way back. Older canes flower less profusely than younger canes.

Pruning once-blooming roses

Most old garden roses and the climbers 'Cecile Brunner' and Lady Banks Rose bloom once, spectacularly, in spring. Prune right after bloom so you won't cut off the flower buds.

For more information on rose pruning, sign up for our January pruning demo or view the video on our web site, orchardnursery.com

Deadheading

Deadheading roses is simply the removal of faded flowers to divert the plant's energy from producing seeds to making more flowers. Deadhead every week or two during the growing season to keep roses tidy and in bloom. Cut off spent flowers or clusters of flowers to ¼ inch above an outward-facing bud.

Feeding

All roses perform better with regular applications of fertilizer. There are many options; Choose a program you can stick with. Here are some examples:

- Feed every week or two with a soluble plant food such as **Maxsea**.
- Feed monthly with **Master Nursery Rose & Flower Food**.
- Feed twice per season with one of **Orchard's Rose Feeding Recipes**, listed below. For newly planted roses or roses in containers use half the recommended rate.

Traditional Rose Feeding Recipe

Apply once in late February and once in July or August and scratch lightly into the soil:

For each rose:

½ cup Master Nursery Multi-Purpose Fertilizer 16-16-16

½ cup Bone Meal

½ cup FST

2 Tablespoons Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom salts)

Organic Rose Feeding Recipe

Apply once in late February and once in mid-June and scratch lightly into the soil:

For each rose:

1 ½ cups E.B. Stone Organics Rose & Flower Food

2 cups E.B. Stone Organics Alfalfa Meal

Mulching

Roses, just like other plants, do better when top-dressed with mulch. Mulch prevents moisture loss, suppresses weeds, and improves the soil over time. After your first feeding in February, spread a 2-3 inch layer of organic mulch such as Paydirt, Gold Rush, or Bumper crop around each plant, keeping the main stem free of mulch.

Pests and Diseases

All roses are susceptible to pests and diseases. There are lots of products, many of them organic, to help control these pests. Most roses thrive with minimal applications of pesticides, but if you want perfect exhibition roses, monitor your plants closely and treat as soon as you see signs of a problem.

Common Rose Problems	Products To Use	Additional Recommendations
Aphids	Take Down Garden Spray Insecticidal Soap	Don't overfertilize. Aphids love soft new growth.
Spider Mites	Take Down Garden Spray Natural Guard Neem Oil	Wash off foliage every week or two. Spider mites thrive on dusty plants.
Thrips	Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew PestFighter Year-Round Spray Oil	Make sure to spray undersides of leaves, where thrips are found.
Powdery Mildew, Rust, Black Spot	Natural Guard Copper Soap Natural Guard Neem Oil	Plant roses where they get plenty of sun and air circulation. Water in the morning.
Caterpillars	Natural Guard Caterpillar Spray with Bt	
Beetles	Natural Guard Spinsodad Soap Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew	