

# SUMMER ROSES

## **Planting of Roses**

- Choose a sunny site – at least 6 hours of sun a day, but all day is even better! The more sun, the happier the rose and the less disease issues you'll have in the future.
- Always have good spacing for proper air circulation – watch your plant sizes and space roses accordingly. Give your roses room to grow and flourish in the garden!
- Proper drainage is a must - even berm up a bit, if needed. Avoid heavy clay soils and areas that are wet in the winter.
- Dig a nice size hole for your new rose, at least twice as wide and deep as the container it is in.
- Amend the soil by utilizing compost or 'Rose Planting Mix' from E.B. Stone Organics - mixing 1/3 amendment with 2/3 native soil. For new plantings, add 1/4 cup alfalfa meal, 2 TBS Epsom salts, and 1/2 cup of E.B. Stone's Organic 'Rose & Flower Food'.
- Consider growing roses in pots – a great way to get summer color with a more permanent plant in a sunny location. Use 'Rose Planting Mix' in lieu of potting soil for this, keep them fed just the same, and be sure to watch the pots for watering needs in warmer weather.

## **Caring of Roses**

- Keep up with fertilizing – roses are heavy feeders over the summer months. Food=Flowers! Repeat fertilization every 6 weeks, starting in March and continuing through summer. Stop the feeding by September to allow the plants to slow down approaching dormant season. For established roses, do 1/2 cup alfalfa meal and 1 cup rose food each time, adding Epsom salts if needed to increase budding and flower production.
- Pruning in summer – remember to always cut down stems to above 5 leaves for quick repeat blooms! Typically, roses will start blooming here in the PNW in mid to late May and go through a number of cycles each summer. Deadheading will always help increase flower productive, giving you more blooms and maximizing your flower power each season!
- Insect and disease maintenance – you need to choose which method you are comfortable with in your garden. Gardeners need to watch for powdery mildew and black spot in our PNW weather. Although we carry roses with excellent resistance to disease, **it never means immune**. You can apply a drench/systemic once every 6 weeks for bugs and disease, like 'Rose Drench' from Bonide, which can be poured around the plant for protection. You can apply a foliar spray for bugs/disease once a month, using something like 'Rose Shield' from Bonide or go green and use organic 'Neem Oil' every two weeks or so to be natural and bee safe. Last option, live with some mildew/black spot on occasion – it is up to you! Remember that a rose that is well fed and planted in sun with good air circulation will always be more resilient to pests and diseases.

## Selecting Roses

The breeders keep breeding and the roses keep coming. There are great classics that stand the test of time, and new ones each season to catch the gardener's eye. We stock numerous roses from **Star Roses and Plants** as well as **Weeks Roses**. We also carry Flower Carpet™ roses in various colors, and some of the Knock Out™ and Drift Rose™ varieties too. There is a list on our website and a fresh crop comes each January bare root, which we prune/plant ourselves.

Look at the difference between “budded” and “own root” roses. Budded plants are less hardy in colder regions, own root are always much hardier. Some roses are only available budded, while many others are easily found on their own roots. Tree roses are grafted/budded, which is why we have to be careful with winter hardiness.

Preview for 2024 – we are a test nursery for rose evaluation and are seeing how the 2024 introductions are doing now. It is a way for us to see how they perform in the PNW before deciding whether or not to offer them to our customers. We feed them, but do not spray in order to see how they hold out through summer.

Choose your rose wisely - look at color, fragrance and maintenance. AND be honest with yourself... What are YOU looking for in a rose? Simply color in the landscape all summer? Do you want to cut flowers and bring inside? Are you seeking intoxicating fragrance? Will you spray or not?

Hybrid Teas vs. Grandiflora vs. Floribunda vs. Climbers. Hybrid Tea is the classic long stem single rose. Grandiflora is the exhibition rose, long stem like Hybrid Tea but in a cluster at the top of tall stems. Floribundas tend to be bushier and sport clusters of multiple flowers on shorter stems. Climbers are for attaching to posts, arbors, trellises – anything you want them to grow vertically on.

Check out the shrub roses, they are indestructible and low maintenance. If you desire color, and often fragrance as well, utilize shrub roses – they are much more disease resistant than others. Look at rugosa roses and hybrid rugosas in particular as they do not have to be sprayed for diseases, have strong old rose fragrance, and naturalize very well. They also get the striking rose hips on them for added interest.

Check out the Drift™ and Happy Trails™ groundcover Roses – easy color and no maintenance. These do not have to be deadheaded, and make excellent choices for mass plantings on slopes or along borders in sun. Just keep them fed, watered and enjoy summer-long color. Many of these are “own root” as well, which makes them very cold hardy. Some even have a light fragrance.

Don't forget the Flower Carpet™ family of roses! The original landscape rose. These come in a variety of colors and do not have to be deadheaded either. They are also “own root” and make a good choice for mass plantings for summer color on slopes, along borders or anywhere in the sunny landscape you want summer color.

English Roses are another option. David Austin™ roses continue to set the standard in this class, but there are plenty of other heavy fragrance old fashioned roses like these available to choose from as well – with better disease resistance. These roses sport delicious fragrance and will delight you with their large quartered flowers in bright colors.

***“Give the Rose another chance!”***

*Created by Trevor Cameron, C.P.H.  
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