

Rose Planting and Maintenance

Preparing Soil

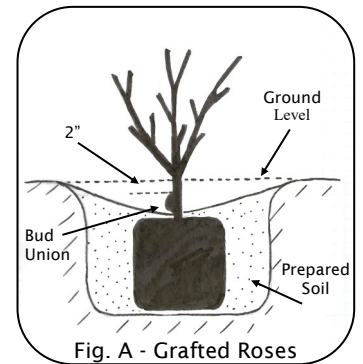
Thoroughly water the rose in the pot it was purchased in prior to planting and let it drain. This hydrates the plant and makes it easier for the roots to stay intact.

Roses prefer loamy soil with a high humus content. An ideal growing medium includes 1/2 loamy soil and 1/2 organic material, such as compost (e.g. Quoddy Blend) or composted cow manure. Or simply use a premixed product such as 'Complete Planting Mix.' You can also add a natural form of potassium, such as liquid or dried kelp (e.g. Stress-X) to help minimize transplant shock.

Planting Non-hardy Roses (Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Floribunda and roses Zone 6 or higher)

Dig a hole twice the width and about 6" deeper than the container. Place 6 inches of prepared soil mixture in the bottom of the hole.

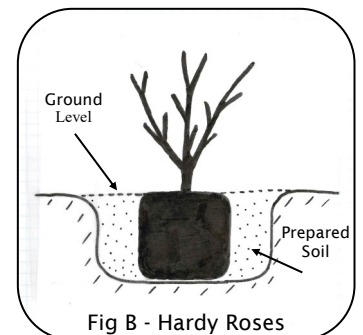
Carefully remove the root ball from the plastic pot and set in the hole at the proper depth so BUD UNION sits about 2" lower than the surrounding soil. Backfill the hole with prepared soil about 2/3 of the way. Fill the hole with water and allow it to drain to remove air pockets. Add the remaining soil, sloping the soil towards the base of the plant, without burying any of the trunk that was exposed when it was purchased [Fig. A]. Water the plant well.



Planting Hardy Roses (Shrub roses, Climbers, Miniatures and roses Zone 5 or lower)

Dig a hole twice the width and the same depth as the container.

Carefully remove the root ball from the plastic pot and set in the hole so the soil potted with your rose is level with the surrounding garden soil [Fig. B]. Add a little prepared soil mixture underneath, to raise it, if necessary. Fill the hole about 2/3 full of prepared soil. Fill the hole with water and allow to drain completely to remove air pockets. Add the remaining soil and water again.



Watering

Newly planted roses require constant soil moisture. The frequency of watering, as well as the amount, depends on soil type and climate. Always avoid overhead watering as this can encourage disease and fungal problems. Provide deep waterings regularly until plants are established and provide supplemental waterings during hot & dry conditions.

Maintenance

Spread 2-3 inches of MULCH around the bush to help maintain soil moisture and to keep weeds under control. Start FERTILIZING roses about two weeks after planting and follow a schedule based on label recommendations. Some roses, particularly Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora and Floribunda require a regular spraying schedule for DISEASE CONTROL. Scout often for pests and diseases before deciding to use pesticides/disease control.

Be sure to provide winter protection to Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras, Floribundas and any other roses that may not be hardy in New England. (See opposite side of this handout). In the spring, pull the soil away from the trunk of grafted roses to expose the bud union. [Fig. A]

Tips for Successful Roses

- Select a site that gets 6 to 8 hours of direct sun. Dappled afternoon shade may reduce heat stress.
- Plant in locations free of competing tree and shrub roots .
- If you have a grafted rose (most hybrid tea, grandiflora and floribunda roses are grafted), plant your rose so the bud union is 1 to 2" below soil level to protect from cold winter temperatures.
- Roses thrive in a well-drained, moisture retentive, rich soil with pH between 6.0 and 7.0.
- Be sure each rose receives at least 2" of water per week
- Always hydrate your roses before applying any fertilizer or pesticides (avoid application with temperatures over 85 degrees Fahrenheit or in bright direct sunshine).
- Water roses at the base of the plant. Keeping the foliage dry helps promote disease resistance.
- While mulching helps conserve moisture and reduce weeds; try under-planting to achieve a more beautiful result.
- Feed your roses regularly, but not past mid-August. Encouraging new growth going into fall and winter will only invite trouble, as new growth can be injured by cold temperatures.
- Learn how to prune your roses properly. This will stimulate new growth, minimize disease problems and create a more pleasing shape to your plants.
- Use fungicides preemptively. Organic and chemical options are available. Be sure to read the directions thoroughly.
- Monitor your roses for pests and diseases. Use organic methods when possible. Use chemicals as a last resort. Be sure to read the directions thoroughly.

Preparing your Roses for Winter

- All Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Floribunda and roses Zone 6 or higher need to be protected to survive New England winters.
- After a killing frost, remove leaves and clean all plant debris from the surrounding area.
- Prune away dead or diseased branches and unwieldy canes.
- Mound NEW soil or compost around the base of the bush to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. This protects tender roots from the damaging effects of freezing and thawing soil. Don't dig around the shrub for soil to mound. [Fig C]
- Create a cylinder from chicken wire or hardware cloth that fits around the bush leaving 3-5 inches of space between the canes and the inside of the cylinder. The cylinder should be three to four inches taller than the tallest canes. Anchor the cylinder in the soil with spikes or wooden stakes. Fill the gap between the rose bush and the wire cage with straw or leaves.
- Wrap the cage with burlap and secure with twine. This provides insulation against sharp winter winds and prevents damage from repeated freezing and thawing that occurs during the winter. [Fig D]
- Many climbers are extremely hardy, but ensure that long canes are well secured to prevent splitting under the weight of heavy snow.
- As spring temperatures increase, gradually remove straw or leaves and mound of soil away from the plant. (Usually in early April). [Fig E]
- Wait until after the last hard frost of spring to prune as desired. This promotes lush green foliage and dense growth. (While forsythia is in bloom)

