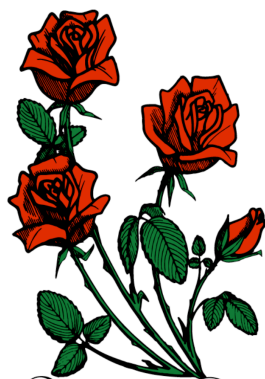


Guide for Planting, Pruning and Care of Roses...



The Augusta Rose Society

SITE SELECTION: Select an area that receives 6 hours or more of direct sunlight each day; that is reasonably well drained (beds that are raised with railroad ties or bricks provide the best drainage for poorly drained, heavy clay soils); that will be free from competition with roots from trees and shrubs; that has good air circulation; and that provides sufficient space to allow plants to be placed 3 to 4 feet from each other.

SOIL PREPARATION: Dig a hole measuring 18" across by 18" deep; separate and save the topsoil. Refill the hole with a mixture that is roughly one-third humus (sphagnum peat moss, compost, etc.) and two-thirds existing topsoil, and contains 2 cups of dolomitic limestone, 1 cup of super phosphate (0-18-0), and 1 cup of gypsum. If the topsoil is heavy clay incorporate additional gypsum and perlite in the backfill. Water the new soil mixture well and, if possible, allow it to settle and mellow before planting. A soil test will provide additional information about fertilizer and lime requirements.

SOIL pH AND LIMING: Roses perform best in a soil whose pH is between 6 and 7, with 6.5 being considered ideal. In this optimum range fertilizers are used efficiently. Unless dolomitic limestone is applied each year to naturally acid soils, the pH may become so low that plants can only utilize a fraction of the fertilizer in the soil. A yearly soil test is needed to make certain the pH remains in the desired range. As a general rule of thumb, approximately 2 cups of dolomitic limestone should be applied per large rose plant each year in the fall.

PLANTING: Bare Root roses are those received through mail order nurseries or those newly potted roses for sale during January and early February at local nurseries. Great care must be taken with these plants to prevent damage from dehydration and freezing. Soak the rose in water several hours before planting. Remove sufficient soil mixture from the hole to allow room to form a cone-shaped mound to support the plant. The top of the cone should be of such a height that the bud union (the bud union is the large knot where the root stock is budded or grafted to the upper portion of the rose) is positioned at or above ground level. Remove dead and diseased roots and prune the tip of each healthy root to encourage the formation of a callous that will result in more rapid root growth. Place the rose on top of the cone and verify that the bud union is positioned correctly. The roots should spread out and down into the hole. Working quickly to avoid dehydration, refill the hole with alternate layers of water and soil mix. Do not pack the soil. To prevent dehydration of the canes, mound extra soil or mulch around the plant leaving only the tips of the canes exposed. Assuming the danger of freezing has passed, remove this protective layer gradually over a 2 or 3-week period until the plant is completely exposed. Potted Roses are those already established in pots. They should be transplanted with as little disturbance to the root ball as possible; this is best accomplished by cutting the pot vertically in several locations with a pocketknife. Place in the hole and then gently slide the pot from beneath the root ball. Water all new plants frequently to stimulate growth!

WARM WEATHER CARE: To avoid defoliation modern roses must be protected against fungus diseases such as blackspot. These diseases are easily prevented; cure of an infestation, however, is much more difficult. Those with small rose gardens growing in full sun with excellent air circulation may wish to try Bayer's All-In-One Rose & Flower Care. This comprehensive product is applied to the soil and should be used at monthly intervals. Growers with small gardens who spray their roses may find Ortho's Orthenex and Bayer's 3-In-One Insect, Disease & Mite Control (both products contain a fungicide, insecticide and miticide) to be the easiest product to use. Powdery mildew infestations may disfigure foliage in the spring and fall. Eagle 20EW, Immunox or Systhane may all be used as effective preventives. Caution: when spraying or handling spray materials always read the product label carefully, follow label directions and wear protective equipment. Make certain plants are well watered before spraying with any chemical to prevent foliar damage. Cover upper and lower surfaces of all leaves; wet just to the point of spray runoff. If blackspot appears mix a broad-spectrum fungicide such as Maneb with the usual mixture and spray twice a week for three weeks; then resume customary care. As insects appear, spot treat the affected area by using a pesticide in a hand type trigger sprayer. Watch for spider mites (first seen as a stippling of the lower leaves) as the weather becomes hot and dry; a strong blast of water directed at the underside of the leaves is an effective control measure. If you experience problems with warm weather care please contact one of the experienced growers listed on the reverse of this sheet. They will be happy to help you!

PRUNING: Pruning is a process that entails not only the major cutting back done during dormancy but also the removal of spent blooms during the growing season. In mid-February, roses (**except those that bloom only once in the spring**) are pruned severely to remove dead and diseased wood and to shape and reduce the size of the plant. Roses that bloom only once in the spring should have dead and diseased wood removed at this time but should not be pruned further until after flowering. For a hybrid tea or grandiflora this dormant pruning will reduce the plant to a height of 24 - 36" and will leave 4 - 6 strong, healthy canes. Miniatures are pruned much like hybrid teas except their canes are reduced to a height of 4 - 8". Floribundas, old garden roses and climbers are pruned much less severely - reduce the length of healthy canes on each by no more than one-third. Climbers should have their canes fastened horizontally to a fence or other support. On all roses, canes that are to be removed at the bud union should be cut cleanly leaving no stubs. Canes which are to be saved should be cut one-quarter inch above an outside facing bud eye (a spot from which growth will emerge) and should contain white or light green pith in the center. A brown pith signals cane damage and indicates a need to prune lower until the healthy green or white color is seen. Remove any canes that are growing across the center of the plant; such canes block air circulation and make spraying more difficult.

WATER & MULCH: Watering is best done with a timer-controlled system that applies water at or near the mulch surface. Roses perform better when watered heavily; in mid-summer, plants require water 2 or even 3 times a week. Allow each bush to receive several gallons at each watering. Be certain to water before each weekly spraying and prior to any fertilizer application. A 1-2" layer of mulch will help conserve water and keep feeder roots cool. Recommended materials are pine straw or pine bark.

FERTILIZING: The specific fertilizer required for each rose bed is determined by soil test results. In general most gardens require one-half cup of a complete granular fertilizer such as 10-10-10 applied monthly. Organic fertilizers such as manures may be used several times during the growing season as a supplement to the monthly feedings. An application of an 8-9 month timed-release fertilizer such as Osmocote used at the rate of 4 to 6 oz per plant will feed roses for several months. Soluble fertilizers may be used to perk up an ailing plant or as a supplement to any of the programs listed above.

HELP WITH YOUR ROSES: The growers listed below will happily provide you with additional information or assistance upon request. Some will even be able to make house calls if needed. Their services are available at no charge.

Joe Attaway, Master Rosarian
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Marcia Faglier, Master Rosarian
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Skip & Pat Shealy, Experienced Rosarians
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(803) 648-4190; patshealy1@aol.com

THE AUGUSTA ROSE SOCIETY: The Augusta Rose Society is a group of local rose growers, both novice and experienced, that gather monthly to learn more about growing roses. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM in room 105 of the Adult Building at First Baptist Church, 3500 Walton Way, Augusta, GA. Why not join us at our next meeting? Annual dues are \$20.00 per household; make checks payable to the August Rose Society and mail to Pat Shealy, Treasurer, 160 Long Shadow Drive, Aiken, SC 29803. For more information visit our web site at www.augustarosesociety.org.