

Successful Roses—Back to the Basics

Pat Koch, MGV 2008



If you have never had a rose plant in your garden, try one this year. You can begin with one plant in an established bed, or plant several in a special area of your garden. You might even try a miniature rose in a container pot.

Growing roses is not difficult and the results can be a spectacular display of color and delightful fragrance starting in June. These are a few requirements to keep in mind.

1. Roses **need sun**—at least 6 hours of direct sunlight for best flowering and growth. Place them away from buildings and trees which would create shade for long periods of time.

2. Roses can be planted from mid-April through the fall. The **best time is early spring**, allowing a longer time for the plant to become established in the garden. There is also a greater variety of plants available in the spring.

3. Bare-root plants and plants in containers have different planting needs. Bare root roses should be planted on a cone of soil. Both types require **good backfill soil** and space for root growth. Place the plants in a hole 15 inches deep by 18 inches wide.

4. When planting a bare root plant, place the plant at a depth which will put the knob a little bit above ground level—settling will take place and this will prevent the knob from going below ground level. When planting a potted rose plant, keep the knob at ground level. **A common mistake is planting the rose too deep.**

5. Roses require some type of “food” for root development.

6. Roses **need space**. If planted too closely together, they will not produce as many flowers and will look tall and spindly. Generally, plant hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas 18 to 30 inches apart. Climbers should be 8 to 12 feet apart and miniatures only 12-15 inches apart.

7. Plants **require an inch of water weekly**. Try not to water from overhead watering systems. Soaker hoses or an installed irrigation system is best.

8. Apply **two inches of mulch** to the bed or planting area. The mulch will help to reduce moisture loss, control weeds, and add nutrients to the soil.



Photos 1 and 2 Hybrid Tea Roses

www.rosefarm.com



Floribunda Rose

www.fractalarts.com