



# GROWING ROSES

## **WHAT DO ROSES LIKE?**

**Position** – an open, airy spot plus at least 5 hrs of sun a day is needed for best flowering and reduced risk of disease.

**Fertilising** – regular (once a month) during the active growing season Sept-April keeps roses growing strongly and strengthens the cells, building resistance to disease. We recommend Healthy Earth, Sudden Impact for Roses, or Blood and Bone.

**Watering** – probably the most important of all. Regular, deep watering transports the nutrients into the roots and should be adjusted with the climate. Plants that are water stressed, particularly in mid-summer, stop growing and often the older leaves go yellow and drop off! Applying fertiliser at this point won't help unless enough water is given.

The ideal way to water roses is onto the soil underneath the foliage, giving them a long deep soak less often. If overhead watering is unavoidable do it in the morning so that the leaves dry quickly. The spores of black spot fungus can only germinate on wet leaves!!

**Pruning** – Continual light pruning and deadheading throughout the season will keep roses growing and reflowering. Just cutting roses for the vase does this naturally! The cut should be made just above a leaf that has 5 leaflets, about 10-20 cms down. When pruning also remove and destroy any early signs of disease. When roses finish flowering in May-June deadhead to tidy and then leave any major pruning until August. August is recommended for our climate because of the risk of late frosts damaging new growth. Clean up all fallen leaves to prevent any ongoing fungal problems. A winter preventative spray of lime sulphur or a copper-based spray is a good idea while the plants have no leaves - also spray around the soil.

## **PLANTING ROSES**

Roses can be planted at any time but the technique for planting will be a little different depending on the time of year how established the plant is in its nursery pot, so don't hesitate to ask our staff for seasonal advice. Remember it is always fine to tilt the bush when planting to straighten the top and main stem!

If you need to plant a new rose in a spot where you have taken out an old rose and you are concerned about residual disease, we recommend you plant inside a cardboard box filled with fresh soil and with holes made in the bottom for drainage. By the time the box breaks down the surrounding soil is usually clear of disease.

## **PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT**

The best preventative measure you can take against the dreaded attack of insects and fungal disease is to have the rose growing strongly and to actually pay attention to what is going on (infestations rarely happen overnight!). If fungal disease is picked up early and removed it can be controlled without spraying. The severity of problems depends a lot on what the weather is doing each season.

Products for control of black spot and powdery mildew include: Eco Fungicide, Healthy Earth Plant Spray, Triforine, Rose Shield. Products for control of insects such as aphids, thrips, hibiscus beetle, scale etc include: Neem Oil, Eco-oil, Natrasoap, garlic/chilli spray, Pyrethrum, Confidor.

We are always happy help identify pest and disease problems and advise on treatment.

## TYPES OF ROSES

- **BUSH ROSES – HYBRID TEA** - these usually have one large flower on a stem like the roses from a florist. They are great cut flowers and generally last well in a vase. They can range anywhere between having little or no fragrance to incredibly intense fragrance. Although each person's sense of smell varies, usually if the label makes a fuss about the rose's perfume, using terms such as intense, strong or highly scented it's safe to assume it smells. Hybrid Tea bushes on average grow between 1.5m-1.8m and all varieties that we stock are repeat flowering.
- **FLORIBUNDAS** - this means many flowers. The bushes bear flowers in clusters on each stem all over the bush which makes them suitable for a showpiece or hedge planting in the garden. The flowers themselves tend to be smaller in size and mostly without significant perfume. They can range from being multi petalled to single flowers. This type of rose is often used to graft as a standard ie Iceberg. Their height is usually 1m-1.5m
- **CLIMBING ROSES** - these are often 'sports' of the original variety that have been selected and grafted. This is why you will see varieties such as Mr Lincoln that are available as both a bush and a climber. Others are simply selected because they naturally grow this way. Climbing roses can grow anywhere between 2m-6m depending on the variety. Those that grow less than 3m are sometimes called "pillar roses" and are suited to training on an arch or growing up a post. When the description given says "vigorous" this usually indicates that the roses will grow about 5-6m. Climbers will eventually need support of some kind to grow on, such as wire or lattice so that the canes can be trained horizontally. This encourages flowering along the length of the stem. If planting climbers on an archway, it is always advisable to plant a rose on each side for even coverage.
  - **Banksia roses** are climbers that are usually too vigorous for this kind of training and are often used for quick cover of fences and structures. They flower once each spring and do not repeat flower.
- **RUGOSA ROSES** - these are an interesting old variety with tell tale small thorns covering their stems. Despite their prickly appearance, they have some positive features as well! They are incredibly disease resistant and cold hardy. They repeat flower and bear beautiful rose hips at the end of autumn. Pruning should be limited to ensure the hips set. In late winter they can simply be pruned using a hedge trimmer.
- **DAVID AUSTIN ROSES** - these are a range of roses bred in the U.K. by renowned breeder David Austin. They are modern reproductions of old romantic style roses with soft cupped petals, arching branches and are all repeat flowering and perfumed to some extent. The flowers can be cut for the vase although they tend not to hold as well as the hybrids. The labels usually describe the growth habit and give an indication of their height: (*Short ~ 1.2m, Medium 1.2m -1.6m, Tall / Short climber 1.8m - 2m*).
- **GROUNDCOVER ROSES** - these are tough ground-hugging and repeat-flowering roses that come in a wide range of colours, most commonly under the "Flower Carpet" brand. The flowers can be cut for the vase although they tend not to hold as well as the hybrids. In late winter they can simply be pruned using a hedge trimmer or shears.
- **STANDARD AND WEEPING ROSES** - Standard and weeping roses are simply varieties of hybrid tea, floribunda and groundcover roses that have been budded onto a tall stem. The most common height and the one we mainly stock is 90cm. Weepers are climbing or rambling varieties budded onto a 1.8m stem and are designed to cascade downwards. Both require a permanent hardwood or metal stake to support them.