

Growing Roses in Southern California

Terms-

Bare Root Roses- Roses in a dormant or semi dormant state with packaging material surrounding the roots.

Root stock- The root system in a grafted plant.

Union- Where the top growth joins with the root stock.

Sucker- Growth from the root stock.

Growth buds- The swelling on the cane where the new growth will occur.

Own Root Roses- Roses that are not grafted.

Placement

Roses need:

Full sun (At least 4-6 hours a day)

Good air flow, but not too much strong wind.

Rich well draining soil.

Selecting and Purchasing

Consider color, style and height when buying roses.

Select roses according to quality not price.

Types of Roses-

Hybrid Tea- Long stemmed roses that are well formed. Plants are 3-6 feet high.

Floribunda- More canes and flowers that provide a massive display of color. Plants 2-4 feet.

Grandiflora- Combine the beauty of hybrid teas and the greater bloom production of floribunda. Reach 5-8'

Spray Roses or Polyantha- have loose clusters of roses held high above the foliage.

Climbers- Climbers have long sturdy canes that can reach 8-20 feet. May not flower the first year or two.

Ramblers grow larger than climbers and produce flowers on second year wood.

Miniatures- These roses have tiny flowers and reach only 1-2 feet. Treat them like small rose bushes.

Old Roses- Roses that existed before rosarians began hybridizing varieties in 1867.

English Roses- David Austin has created roses with the fragrance and form of old roses and the repeat flowering, color range and disease resistance of modern plants.

Flower Carpet or Ground Cover Roses- are low dense growing roses that reach 18-24" high and 30-40" wide.

PLANTING ROSES:

Plant in an area that receives full sun and good air circulation.

As with other plantings amend the soil with plenty of rich organic amendment, fertilizer, gypsum and soil sulfur.

If you are planting bare root: remove package, shake sawdust & soak roots in water for 1-2 hours.

Dig a large hole, mixing soil additives well with the existing soil for a 2' diameter.

Fill hole with soil firmly and add water to help the soil settle.

Make sure the rose is not planted too low.

Rose Care

Watering-

Deep-water roses, but allow the soil to dry between watering. Avoid sprinklers that leave the rose leaves wet.

Fertilizing-

Fertilize when planting or pruning, as first growth appears in spring and once a month from spring to fall.

Pest Control-

Powdery Mildew, Black Spot, and Rust.

Remove any diseased growth, and clean up debris under the bush and spray.

Spray the plant with a hard blast of water when necessary to wash off pests.

Aphids and Rose Slugs are the two biggest Rose Pests in Southern California.

Spray with Insecticidal Soap or Horticultural Oil if insects are persistent.

Trimming Roses throughout the year-

Cut dead flowers to promote more blooms.

Make sure the last bud is outward facing.

Mulch and cultivate several times a year.

Rose Pruning

Pruning time-

Established roses should be pruned when they are most dormant from late January to mid February.

Equipment-

Pruning shears, heavy gloves, trash can, fertilizer, mulch & dormant spray.

Goals-

Thin out canes, open the center to eliminate crowding and promote good air flow and sun to exposure. Remove old, dead or damaged growth, half the height of the bush and suckers. Leave only 4-5 strong new canes.

After Pruning-

Clean up all fallen debris, then fertilize and then apply 1-2" of organic mulch & spray with dormant spray.

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