



Weiss Brothers Nursery
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CARE OF ROSES

Feeding

Feed organics in the Spring (March or thereabouts) after February pruning. Organics are healthier for your soil because they release ingredients more slowly, are less likely to burn the plant and are better for soil microorganisms. Adjust amounts according to the size and age of the plant. Feed approximately every 6 to 8 weeks until early fall.

Recommended: Dr. Earth "Rose & Flower Fertilizer".

Also in Spring, use 1 cup oyster shell lime per established plant to neutralize soil acidity if needed. (Neutralizing soil acidity makes fertilizers more effective. Use a soil test kit to determine acidity and the need for oyster shell lime.)

Apply ½ cup Epsom salts twice per season (in March and June). Work into soil and water thoroughly.

If you don't use organics, then use a product such as a systemic fertilizer/insecticide or a general all purpose rose and flower fertilizer (i.e. Master Nursery "Rose & Flower Food") every 6 weeks from Spring through mid-September. Caution: Do not use systemic fertilizer/insecticide products more frequently than every 6 weeks. Distortion of rose bud, flowers and foliage could result.

Fall

Cease feeding after mid-September to allow plants to "harden off" for winter. Allowing rose hips to develop may help the hardening off process. Use Master Nursery "Master Bloom" 0-10-10, every 4 to 6 weeks to strengthen roots for winter.

Mulching

Mulch adds humus to soil, keeps plant beds cool in the Summer, warmer in Winter and aids in weed suppression. Use any of the following as a mulch:

worm castings, your own compost, Master Nursery Bumper Crop, bark, or shredded bark. **Spread mulch 2" to 3" deep around plant, leaving a 6" bare ring around the trunk** to avoid insect and fungus activity at the base of the plant, and to feed and water. *Caution: Always clean up fallen rose leaves and spent blossoms to avoid spreading disease (i.e., rust, black spot). Do not use rose leaves or blossoms in your compost pile.*

Spraying

During Winter, use dormant oil for insects.

During the growing season, use a fungicide for powdery mildew, rust and black spot. Recommended: Rose Defense fungicide/insecticide.

Watering

Roses are heavy drinkers, but need good drainage. **Water deeply at least twice a week.** If using drip irrigation, make sure that your roses are getting enough water. Dig down at least 6 inches beside plant to confirm water penetration.

Always water in the morning: not evening. Evening watering will encourage fungus problems. Avoid watering foliage.

Winter Pruning

The correct time for major pruning of most rose types in this area is in February when buds appear on your roses and begin to swell. Pruning stimulates new growth and flower production. Many rose varieties produce flowers only on new canes. All pruning cuts should be about ¼" above a leaf node and cut at a 45 degree angle facing outward.

All hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras and miniatures require heavy annual pruning to keep them in top shape. First remove dead, damaged or diseased canes and cross branches. Open up the center of the plant for improved air circulation and light to help reduce mildew and other diseases. Leave 3 to 5 good, healthy green canes. Remove suckers (shoots that come up from below the bud union). Suckers rob energy from the plant.

Plant height is reduced by this pruning, depending on the rose type. For hybrid teas and floribundas, leave canes 12" to 18" long. For grandifloras, leave 24". Aim for a "V" or urn-shaped plant with an open center for good light and air circulation.