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# Rose Tidbits

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## Planting a Rose

Dig a hole 18 inches wide and at least 18 deep, add a handful of bone meal plus 1 cup of alfalfa meal. Alfalfa has a hormone in it which activates the roots and bone meal takes about a year to break down as rose food.

Plant the rose with the bud union ( the large bump just before the roots) 3 inches below the soil, mulch all around the rose base.

Don't press down the soil with your feet as this can block air and water, press gently your hands.

Water to keep the soil damp (not soggy) for at least three months, as roots will still be fragile.

In the Pacific Northwest, roses can do well on 6 hours of full sun and then filtered sun for the rest of the day. Full sun all day is not necessary.

Space most hybrid tea roses three feet apart from base of roots to the next base of the rose roots, climbers 6 feet apart. Plant floribundas 2 feet from roots to roots and roses for a hedge, 2 feet apart.

Don't use any fertilizer until after the first flush of flowers; roots can't use it until that time. Then use 1 tablespoon of Osmocote 14-14-14. This will last all summer long.

Liquid fish fertilizer monthly is chicken soup for roses is easy to take up. Mix 3 tablespoons in 4 quarts of water. You can use at half strength in spring. Excess nitrogen causes many problems.

Foliar feed: use 2 tablespoons of 20-20-20 in 1 gallon of water. Florist flowers: 3 tablespoons of sugar dissolved in hot water for food and 1 tablespoon of vinegar to kill algae.

No fertilizing after the end of July in order to give the rose time to prepare for winter. Late fertilizing is the cause of cane dieback and cankers in the spring as the canes have not hardened off.

## Black Spot

There is no permanent cure as spores float in the air and fall on rose leaves when windy, plus all fungicides are banned for cosmetic use. Just bury the fallen leaves under a layer of mulch in the spring to stop the spread. The spores cannot live on dead material. Whatever spray you use, always alternate

yearly as the spores can become immune to one.

It is okay to wash down roses with a hose in the morning to get rid of black spot spores and dust, sitting on the leaves, then let dry off. Spores need rose leaves to live.

## Caterpillars

Try 2 quarts of water, 1 tablespoon of Canola oil (no substitutions—Canola oil mixes with water) and 1 tablespoon of baking soda. The oil smothers insects or pupae.

## Rose slugs

If the leaves look like a lacy doily, you may have rose slugs. Try same treatment as above (for caterpillars) but spray underneath the leaves as that is where they feed.

## Rose midge fly

Watch for tiny hole at base of rose buds then pick off all drooping or dead buds as the flower won't open. Canes blacken and die.

## Leaf Rolling Sawfly

Rose leaves are rolled up. You will have to pick off as no chemical can get inside the leaf to the larvae

## Aphids

Wash off with a hose spray or flick the cane and knock them off. They are too weak to get up again and the birds eat them like candy

## Crown Gall

Small round like brown lumps at the base of the canes or on the roots usually on budded roses. No effective cure. Dig out soil to 12 in and replace plant

## Canker

Brown patches on canes or blackened ones. There are two types of fungi which get into a wound on the rose canes. One type likes cool weather and the other likes warmth. The injury can be caused by thorns scratching a cane and then the fungi gets in the fall, and continues in the early spring. The warm fungi takes over until it gets too hot. Always check the rose canes and cut out any blacked areas right down until the centers of the canes are like a green

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apple.

Because our spring can be warm and then we get cold winds, the suddenly drop in temperature causes the canes to crack and the fungi gets in. Never fertilize after the end of July. This gives the rose canes time to harden off for winter by pulling down the sap into the roots and this toughens them against injury and cold in the winter.

### Powdery Mildew

Burns new growth and distorts it. Try daily treatment of 1 tablespoon of each baking soda, canola oil and vinegar. Don't substitute on the canola oil as others are heavy and sticky.

### Rabbits

Try 2 teaspoons ammonia in 1 quart of water. Spray all around the base and up to where rabbit could reach. Lasts about two weeks.

### Deer

Hungry deer will eat anything even Rugosas and will also get used to anything you try as a deterrent. Building a five foot fence with the last 12 inches bending outward at a 45 degree angle really does work. The deer look up to gauge their jump and think the fence is much taller than it really is and they walk away.

### Yellow Leaves

Mainly caused by stress. If yellow leaves appear on roses recently planted, the roots have not settled in and can't take up enough food and water. Roots will go under stress if weather changes too quickly. When roots are stressed, they simply shut down to save the rose. Leaves will also droop but watering and fertilizing will not help as roots can't take it up. When temperatures return to normal the rose will grow another set of leaves. Roses can grow three sets of new leaves before it effects them negatively.

A Rose is not getting enough iron may also be the cause, but this is not normally a problem here as soil here have enough minerals supply rose needs.

Plant is may just getting rid of older leaves at the base. Yellow leaves at the top means plant is starting to die and usually a root problem. The rose roots are sitting where the water doesn't drain well. Three days and the feeder roots will suffocate; 5 days and the

rose will not be able to take up nutrients.

Soil pH may be too low or too high (6.0 pH to 6.8 pH is best for roses).

Rose nutrient uptake is reduced so not getting what it needs to flower. They were under or over watered or the particular rose needs more sun shine to do well

### Pruning

No pruning until the third spring as rose roots need all their top growth to do well when young. Not all roses have the same ability of root rejuvenation. Basically one should remove any dead, diseased or spindly growth even canes at the base that are thinner than a pencil. A rose only needs 6 canes to do well.

Prune out all canes which look dead or diseased, plus canes that are crossing over others and causing wounds by the thorns scratching in the wind. Cut back about a third down from the top. Don't fuss; just go right across the top down to a third. Then save the canes to use as cuttings. Climbers (in the perfect garden!) should have the canes bent horizontally when first planted. Cut back to 5 inches all laterals growing up from the main canes.

Roses are genetically programmed to grow a certain way, such as upright, spreading, short or tall and no amount of pruning will make them change. Tests have proven that cutting hybrid teas (or any rose) down severely weakens the roots because they have to use a lot of energy to grow back again. On old roses, cut out one old cane (the greyish brown ones, right to the base until all canes are new ones. The old , greyish canes make poor flowers.

### Rose Cuttings

There are many good videos on the internet, but here are a few tips:

- take cuttings from the tips of a cane shortly it has died;
- climbers strike best from a lateral cane. These are the smaller canes coming off the main canes;
- Rooted minis will stop growing in summer heat, so keep them in a cool place;
- always take as many cuttings as possible as some will not strike;
- try using clear plastic bags for pruning cuttings. You can see if the cuttings have rooted;
- lazy gardeners like me, use pruning cuts. I take a pencil to make a hole, push the stems in beside the mother plant in the fall.

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### Rose Does Not Bloom

- not enough full sunshine for 6 hours;
- some roses will not bloom until they reach a certain size or height;
- too much nitrogen in the fertilizer so it makes growth at the expense of making flowers;
- not enough foliage to support flowers as it is a new plant and needs time to grow more leaves;
- the bud eye used to graft the rose was weak or damaged. Also could be a blind shoot, simply the cane cut back to 12 inches;
- roses need a lot of water when they are starting to make flowers. In a very hot summer, roses can lose up to 3 gallons of water per day.

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## Rose Myths Debunked

Debunked by Departments of Agriculture and University testing labs

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Myth	Truth
Milk helps to control rose diseases.	Stomata in the leaves of roses must breathe and milk plugs them.
Organic fertilizers are better than chemical ones.	The rose doesn't know the difference between them.
Only prune roses when Forsythias are in bloom or in the fall.	Prune roses mainly in spring when growth starts.
Arrange roots over a soil cone.	Dig the hole to fit the shape of the roots.
Prune hybrid tea roses down hard.	It has been proven that hard pruning causes smaller, poorer roots.
Roses need full sun all day.	Roses do well in the Pacific Northwest with 6 hours of full sunshine.
Roses are not drought tolerant.	Once established, roses are extremely drought tolerant.
Roses grown in California don't do well here.	It makes no difference where the rose originated.
Cut a rose right down to the first five leaflets.	Cut to where you want to; it makes no difference.
Epson Salts is good for roses because it makes basal canes.	Roses are genetically programmed to grow a certain way; Epson salts won't help.
You must use only fertilizers marked for roses	Use any kind you want. Liquid 20-20-20 is good for all plants.
Soaking new roses in vitamin B1 helps make roses grow better.	Vitamin B1 makes no difference to spring growth.
Cut dead blooms off.	Simply snap them off with your fingers as new growth comes from right behind.
After planting, press the soil down hard with your foot.	Never compact soil around a rose; just water in.
Roses need lots of fertilizer.	Only hybrid tea roses need an extra feed after the first flush; others need only one feeding.
It is impossible to transplant a rose when it is growing.	There are ways to move a rose in the summer.
You can't use the same hole a rose was grown in to plant another rose.	Just dig out the old rose and replace the soil.
Roses can be killed easily.	Not so on many grave sites or in the wild; they get no attention and still they grow.
Always cut rose canes at a 45 degree angle so rain slides off.	And you believe it?
Spraying water on the rose leaves causes black spot.	Water actually washes the spores off the roses.
Pick up ALL fallen rose leaves to prevent black spot next year.	Spores need green leaves to survive not dead ones.
Steer manure is just like cow manure.	Steer manure contains very high amounts of salts. Cow manure does not.