

# ROSES

*Over the ages few flowers have been so loved, revered or renowned as the rose. Roses symbolize love & purity & their fragrance invokes a romantic past. Roses come in such an astounding variety of colours, scents, flower forms & growth habits that choosing & caring for them may seem somewhat intimidating. To help you choose wisely this pamphlet describes some landscape uses & methods of care for your roses.*

## planting your rose bush

The old adage "Never place a \$10 plant in a 10 cent hole" couldn't be truer for roses. The proper planting techniques will make both you & your roses happy for years to come.

- 1 Plant your rose in a full sun (6 hours of sunlight) location & in an area with good air circulation.
- 2 Water your rose bush well before planting.
- 3 Dig a planting hole 15cm (6") wider & deeper than the rootball of your rose bush.
- 4 Mix the soil you have removed from the planting hole with organic material - peatmoss, manure, compost or SOIL ENER-GIZER. Use 1 part organic material to 2 parts soil. Refill the planting hole to a level that will ensure the bud union, or crown, will be above the soil surface when you are finished planting. Make sure that your soil is well draining.
- 5 Carefully remove the rose bush from its container. Place rose bush in planting hole. Fill around rootball halfway, tamping in gently to remove air pockets. Water well & allow water to drain away completely.
- 6 Fill the hole the rest of the way with soil & firm in gently. Water again, let soil settle & add more soil if necessary, to reach desired level.



## caring for your roses

### feeding

Start when plants are fully leafed out. Choose a fertilizer formulated for Roses such as EVERGRO 6-12-16 or slow release 14-14-14. Continue feeding until mid July.

### deadheading

Remove blooms as soon as they fade to encourage more flowers. Always remove a dead flower by taking a piece of the stem & cutting to just above a five-leaflet leaf.

### watering

Water deeply & thoroughly, soaking the soil to a depth of 13-15cm (5-6"). Make sure you have well-draining soil so that roots don't sit in water. Water at the base of the plant: wet foliage can encourage fungus diseases. Allow the rose to dry out in between waterings.

### pruning roses

Prune Roses in spring after all danger of frost has passed. A good indication of this is when the yellow flowers of Forsythia come into bloom.

- 1 Remove any canes that are dead, diseased or damaged. Cut back any canes showing signs of dieback to healthy wood below.
- 2 Shorten the remaining canes, making an angled cut 5mm (1/4") above an outward facing bud, 20-22cm (8-9") above ground level.
- 3 Position cuts to encourage outward growth that will not cross the centre or other stems.

### pruning climbing roses

Climbing Roses should not be pruned until they have been in place for 2 years. Once established:

- 1 Remove dead, damaged or diseased canes.
- 2 Remove oldest canes & weakest new canes.
- 3 Retain 3 or 4 vigorous young canes & tie to supports.

## troubleshooting

Practise good garden hygiene - remove infected foliage from plant, rake up & destroy fallen leaves. Inspect often for the appearance of insects & disease. AVOID OVERHEAD WATERING!! Water on foliage may encourage fungal diseases like black spot & powdery mildew. To protect your Roses from insect pests & fungal diseases:

- 1 Spray with lime sulphur/dormant oil during dormant season.
- 2 Spray with a contact insecticide such as SAFER'S TROUNCE when insects first appear or start a regular program with a paint-on or spray-on systemic insecticide.
- 3 For powdery mildew & black spot use the following directions.

### **black spot (fungus)**

SYMPTOMS: dark purple-black spots on leaves; half of leaf yellows or leaf drops completely from plant.

CAUSE: rainy weather or improper watering. To remedy the situation....

- 1 When watering avoid wetting foliage, water at the roots only.
- 2 Remove & destroy fallen leaves & other debris around the plant: do not put in the compost!
- 3 Spray with lime sulphur/dormant oil in winter.
- 4 When leaves unfurl in spring begin spray program with a systemic fungicide or spray with a sulphur solution as soon as disease is noticed.

### **powdery mildew (fungus)**

SYMPTOMS: white powdery material appears on the forming flower buds & on topsides of leaves.

CAUSE: fostered by cool nights, warm days & high humidity. To remedy the situation....

- 1 Plant roses in areas with good air circulation.
- 2 Water plants well during dry, hot weather & feed regularly.
- 3 As soon as leaves unfurl in spring begin a spray program with SAFER'S DEFENDER fungicide or a systemic fungicide. Or spray with baking soda & water (1 tsp/litre) mixture or a sulphur solution at first appearance of disease.



## **'s in the landscape**

### **formal rose gardens**

Simply shaped beds are either circular, oval or best of all rectangular. Roses are arranged in geometric patterns - tallest in the middle, shorter ones surrounding them with plenty of space in between. Beds are flanked by closely clipped lawn or neat pathways. Choose from: Standard Tree Roses, Grandifloras, Hybrid teas, Floribundas, Miniatures.

### **informal or cottage gardens**

Roses are mixed with evergreen & flowering shrubs & perennials to create a border with all-season interest. Spring & summer blooming bulbs can also be added. Choose from: Grandifloras, Hybrid Teas, David Austin Roses, Floribundas, Miniatures.

### **groundcovers & mass plantings**

Low growing & spreading rose types are planted en masse to cover a large bed, steep bank or to spill over terraced beds. Choose from: Carpet Roses, Meidiland Roses, Pavement Roses, Rugosa Roses.

### **hedges**

Certain types of roses make excellent informal, blooming hedges. Plant 45-90cm (1.5-3ft) apart. Choose from: Bonica Meidiland Rose, Sevillana Meidiland Rose, Rugosa Roses, Penelope, Iceberg.



### **'s in containers**

- 1 Choose smaller growing rose types such as Floribundas, Polyanthas, Miniatures & shorter growing Hybrid Teas.
- 2 Standard or Tree Roses are also perfect in pots.
- 3 Climbers can be grown in pots if the pot is large enough & a strong support is provided.
- 4 Look for Miniature Climbing Roses (1.5-2.1 m (5-7ft)) to grow in pots on balconies or small patios.

### **selecting a pot**

Wood, plastic, ceramic, etc. Whatever you choose is fine so long as the pot has a drainage hole & the size is appropriate. The following are the pot sizes needed for different types of roses....

- 1 Miniatures & Polyanthas: minimum pot size = 25-30cm (10-12") wide & 30-36cm (12-14") deep.
- 2 Floribundas, Hybrid Teas & Tree Roses: minimum pot size = 40cm (16") wide & 40-45cm (16-18") deep.
- 3 Climbing Roses: minimum pot size = half barrel.

### **planting & maintenance**

- 1 Plant your rose in the pot using a well-draining planter mix such as EXELGRO PLANTER BOX MIX or SUNSHINE PRO MIX #1.
- 2 Water regularly & feed with a soluble plant food formulated for roses according to package directions.
- 3 Remove faded flowers frequently to keep the rose plants blooming.

### **arbors, trellises & pergolas**

Climbing roses are not self twining or clinging so will need both a sturdy support & some way of securing stems to the support (eg. plastic coated wire). Choose from: New Dawn, Climbing Cecile Brunner, Zephirine Drouhin, Golden Showers.

### **along fences & against blank walls**

Build a support of strong, taut wire against fences or walls. 'Blaze', 'New Dawn' & 'White Dawn' are good choices.

### **pillars & obelisks**

Climbing roses are grown on upright supports to create a column of roses. Support should be 2.5-3m (8-10ft) tall. Choose from: Climbing America, Don Juan, Joseph's Coat, Dortmund.