

Peter Beales®

World Leaders in Classic Roses

The Basics of Rose Pruning and Planting



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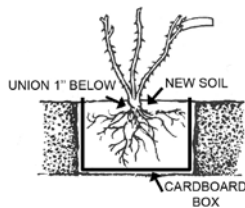
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Planting Roses

Ground Preparation / Specific Rose Replant Disorder

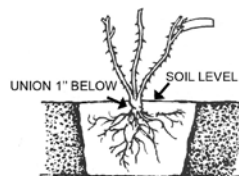
If possible ground should be prepared well in advance, dug deeply and dressed with well-rotted farmyard manure, compost or other organic material and bone meal. Never use fresh farmyard manure and never allow any sort of manure or fertiliser to come into direct contact with the roots when planting. If you are replacing roses with new roses you must change the soil, sterilise it, or give it at least two complete seasons rest from roses before re-planting. This avoids the effects of '*roses replant disorder*'. Alternatively, dig a hole large enough for a bio-degradable cardboard box and fill with fresh soil.



Planting Newly Acquired Bare Root Roses

Roses should not be planted when their roots are dry nor should they be planted during frost. If it is frosty when you receive them, they should not take any harm left unopened in their package for up to one week. If it remains frosty for longer than this, open the package, moisten the roots and place the roses - still in their bundle - in a container of damp soil or damp sand. A wooden box, bucket or large polythene bag will usually hold enough soil for this purpose. Plant out the roses when the frost has disappeared. If the roses arrive when it is not convenient for you to plant them, they should be 'heeled in' out of doors the moment the weather permits.

- Ensure that the hole is dug large enough in width to accommodate the roots when they are spread out. Also make sure that it is deep enough to allow the union to be covered by at least 1". The union is the point at which the roots and stems join.

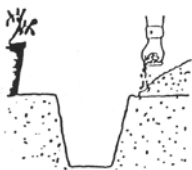


- Mix a fertiliser into the bottom of the hole and some into the heap of soil waiting to be put back in. Do not simply place it at the bottom of the hole as this can scorch the roots. Good rose foods are a mixture of organic material and bone meal, a prepared rose food, (readily available), or mature farmyard manure.
- Place the rose into the hole, ensuring that the roots are well spread and that the plant is upright. Replace the soil carefully, shaking it between the roots and firming with the foot. Once all the soil is returned water well. Although it may not require water as such, this will help the soil to settle.

Transplanting Mature Roses

- Prepare the area well.
- Prune the rose as hard as possible leaving some younger wood.
- Try to retain the soil as a ball around the roots when digging it up. It is likely that some roots will be damaged in this process but as long as most of the fibrous roots remain intact this should not cause too much concern.
- Plant with care, being careful not to break up the root ball when treading the soil down. Water well and regularly thereafter.

Planting Container Roses



- The ground preparation should be the same as for bare root plants.
- Ensure the hole dug is wider and deeper than the container in which the rose is growing.
- Remove the plant carefully from its pot, so that the root system is not disturbed. If the rose has been recently containerised it is wise to leave it in its pot for a couple of months to allow the roots to establish.



- With the plant upright carefully replace the soil, firming gently with the feet.
- Water well. Container roses planted in the summer will require regular watering.



Planting Bare Root Roses in Tubs

- Choose a large container with good drainage holes.
- Add further drainage in the form of shingle, builders rubble or similar.
- Use a loam-based compost if possible, (such as John Innes No.3).
- Follow the planting procedures as for new bare root roses, above, ensuring root spread and depth etc.
- Allow at least two inches between the top of the pot and the compost level, for ease of watering. Remember that pot grown roses will need regular watering during the summer.

Planting Container Roses in Tubs

- Follow the guidelines for planting bare root roses in tubs, listed above, but ensure that adequate planting depth is allowed for.

Care of Established Roses in Tubs

- In spring each season it is advisable to remove the top two or three inches of compost and replace with fresh compost.
- Every three years replace all compost. This should be done when the rose is dormant during January and February. Remove the rose from the pot, gripping it near the base. Most of the compost will come out with the roots. Carefully knock away any loose compost and tease out the roots with your fingers before re-potting.
- Roses in tubs should be fed with high potash, liquid, fertiliser, every two weeks throughout the growing season and watered regularly.

Planting Standard Roses



- The general rules above must be followed but it is important to stake standard roses.
- The stake should be in position before the rose, about 18" into the ground.
- The standard must be tethered to the stake using at least two ties. One as close to the crown as possible and one about halfway down the stem. Ensure that the ties have spacers positioned between the stem and the stake to avoid rubbing.

Pruning Roses

General Rules

There are some golden rules of pruning that apply to all roses.

- Always use good quality, sharp secateurs.
- Ensure that all cuts are made above a node, on an angle, away from the bud.
- Cuts should be clean.
- Remove dead, damaged and diseased wood.
- Remove wood, which has rubbed against other branches, and become damaged.
- Try to keep the centre of the plant open.

Pruning New Roses after Planting

- Whatever the type of rose it should be pruned hard when it is first planted. This helps to prevent them becoming leggy and ungainly plants later in their life.
- We recommend that shrub, climbing, rambling and procumbent roses are reduced to about four buds on each stem and modern roses to three.

Pruning Modern, Bush Roses, Hybrid Teas and Floribundas

- All modern, bush roses produce their flowers on current season's growth.
- Pruning should be done in February / March.
- Prune all stems down to 5 – 7 buds from the base of the plant.
- Remove all weak, damaged and diseased wood.

Pruning Once Flowering Shrub Roses

- In many cases it is not necessary to prune summer flowering shrub roses. They will make attractive plants without much attention.
- The only requirements may be to remove any dead, diseased or chaffed branches.
- Since they flower on wood produced in the previous season, if pruning is required, it is best carried out after flowering. This gives the plant time to build up more growth for next season's flowers but remember, if you prune the varieties which produce hips in the autumn, they will not produce hips if they are pruned.

Pruning Repeat Flowering Shrub Roses

- On these types flowering occurs on current season's growth.
- Pruning is best carried out in February / March
- Remove growth that is overcrowded.
- Reduce some of the younger stems by a third; others can be cut back further.
- A light pruning can be done when deadheading in the summer.
- Rugosa roses should only be 'tidied up'.

Pruning Procumbent Roses

- Probably most of the pruning will be confined to removing tangled growth and tidying.
- Different cultivars have different growth habits. If the plant produces long arching branches, they can be pegged down if necessary.

Pruning Climbing and Rambling Roses

These can be divided in two groups. Group One: Cultivars that flower on current wood, such as the Noisettes, Climbing Teas, Hybrid Perpetuals and most Modern Climbers and Group Two: those which flower on the previous season's growth such as Ramblers and Scramblers.

Group One

- Pruning goes hand in hand with training. Stems should be tied out in different directions to encourage new flowering growth. A lateral stem will produce more flowering shoots along its length if it is trained as near to horizontal as possible.
- As the plant becomes older a pattern of pruning can be developed. By leaving some stems long and reducing others by about a third. The aim is to keep the plant as full of younger wood as possible.

Group Two

- Ramblers will often produce long, flexible branches from ground level. THESE ARE NOT SUCKERS and will produce next years flowers.
- Prune the older wood and leave as many young shoots as possible.
- Pruning should be done in summer immediately after flowering.
- Some Ramblers require only occasional pruning and are often better left to their own devices.

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