

# — THE DIGGERS CLUB —

## THE *Secret* TO PLANTING ROSES



### ROSE CARE

It's easy to grow beautiful roses in your garden. They are low maintenance once established, producing a mass of blooms twice a year. You can spend as little or as much time on your roses as you choose, but either way, here are a few pointers to keep your roses looking their best throughout the year.

### FERTILISING

Roses are gross feeders, so if you give them plenty of food, they'll give you plenty of growth. Fertilise in early spring and again in late summer. Improve soil by mulching with compost and decomposed manure.

### WATERING

Although roses don't like having wet feet, they do need water to grow. The best advice is to water longer, less often. Water deeply twice a week throughout summer, and less often during the cooler months.

Always water the soil and not the leaves of your roses. Wet foliage can encourage fungal diseases like black spot and powdery mildew.

### MULCHING

Mulching not only helps to reduce weed growth, it reduces water loss by minimising evaporation. Apply mulch about 15cm thick around your roses but be sure to keep it away from the stems as this can cause collar rot. Roses generally enjoy lucerne as a thick garden mulch.

### PRUNING

Roses should be pruned back hard in winter however they also benefit from light pruning throughout the year. Remove spent flower stems and cut back all rampant branches to an outward facing bud. There's no need to wait until winter to remove tangled stems and diseased branches. Regular clean-ups will keep your roses healthy and tidy.

### PESTS AND DISEASES

No matter how much care you take, roses are susceptible to a couple of common ailments, most, of which, are easily rectified with a quick organic spray with pyrethrum to ward off aphids and a fungal spray to keep powdery mildew and black spot in check.



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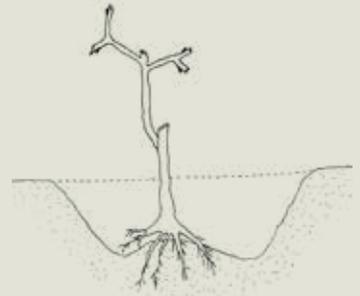
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### PLANTING AND CARE OF BARE ROOT ROSES

When your bare root roses arrive, unwrap them and soak the roots in a bucket of water (like you would a bunch of cut flowers) for at least 24 hours prior to planting. You can also add a little seaweed solution to the bucket. Leave to soak until you are ready to plant as the exposed roots will dry out quickly and become damaged if exposed to the air for long periods of time — even when dormant.

Prepare the soil for planting prior to arrival of your bare root roses, to give them the best possible start.

Find a suitable position and enrich the soil with compost and other organic additives like Rockdust and MycoGold. Dig an area slightly larger and deeper than required to open the soil and improve root penetration.



#### 1. ON ARRIVAL

- ♦ Unwrap your bare root rose and soak in a bucket of water enriched with seaweed solution.
- ♦ Plant as soon as possible after arrival.



#### 2. PREPARE THE HOLE

- ♦ Prepare the soil by incorporating well-rotted compost.
- ♦ Dig a hole at least 30-40cm wide and at least a spade depth deep.



#### 3. CHECK HOLE DEPTH

- ♦ Backfill a small mound of soil into the centre of the hole. This will be where the stem of the bare root plant sits, and the roots can spread out easily around.
- ♦ Make sure the graft (if present) sits above the soil. Your rose should be planted at the same height as it was in the ground. Check for soil marks on the stem.



#### 4. BACKFILL AND MULCH

- ♦ Using the enriched soil, backfill, firming the soil down as you go.
- ♦ Water before applying mulch.
- ♦ Apply an organic mulch around 7cm deep, keeping the mulch away from the stem.

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