

NORTHERN

Gardener

CREATING & CARING FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT



Roses can be grown throughout Minnesota and offer pleasure for the novice as well as the connoisseur. With their exquisite form and variety of color and fragrance, it is easy to understand why they are America's favorite flower. However, getting started with roses can be an overwhelming experience for the beginner because of the many different types and varieties of roses and the care that some of them require. While some roses do require regular care, there are many that do not. Everyone may enjoy their beauty and fragrance.

Types of Roses

Hybrid Teas The most popular of roses with their large double flowers that are borne singly or in small clusters on long stems. While they do require the most care and winter protection, they

also can be the most rewarding because of their exquisite beauty and fragrance.

Floribundas Generally are lower growing than the hybrid teas and the flowers are smaller and borne in large clusters. They are very effective in landscape plantings for the mass of color they produce. They will require a certain amount of care and winter protection like the hybrid teas.

Grandifloras Were created by interbreeding the hybrid teas and floribundas resulting in vigorous plants that produce flowers resembling hybrid teas but in larger clusters.

Climbers Roses that can be trained on fences or trellises. Most bloom continuously and depending on the variety have individual flowers that resemble hybrid teas or clusters of smaller flowers that are like floribundas. Hardiness is variable with some requiring extensive winter protection

Roses

while others require little or none.

Miniature These roses resemble scaled down floribundas with plants that are generally no more than 18 inches in size and with flowers and foliage that is proportionately smaller. They are everblooming and require similar care and winter protection as do the hybrid teas and floribundas. A new category, called minifloras, has been created with slightly larger blooms and plant habit. These and the miniatures can be used effectively as a border plant in the landscape.

Shrub An increasingly popular category of roses that include the old fashioned types, that may bloom only once a year, as well as many new hybrids that incorporate hardiness with many of the desirable characteristics of hybrid teas and floribundas. They come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes with most of the newer varieties being everblooming and having flowers of good quality. Shrub roses are also sometimes referred to as hardy or rugosa roses. Most require very little care and little or no winter protection. Some, because of their breeding, will dieback to the crown each spring but are vigorous enough to rejuvenate quickly and produce an abundance of color all season. This increasingly popular group of roses appeals to the individual that would like to enjoy roses without spending much time caring for them.

Planting & Rose Care

PLANTING OF BARE-ROOT ROSES

To plant a dormant rose, remove and discard any packing material and place the plant so that the bud union is at least one inch below the surface grade.



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Spread the root out over a cone-shaped mound, in the base of the hole. Fill in over the roots with improved soil, firming it as it is added. Leave a basin for water and soak thoroughly. Make sure that after the earth settles the bud union of the roses is at least one inch below the surface.

Planting of Potted Roses Dig the hole approximately 50 percent wider and slightly deeper than the container. Remove the plant from the container and set it in the hole so that the bud union is at least one inch below the surface. Fill in and water as described for bare root roses.

Mulching A 2 to 4 inch layer of shredded bark, cocoa hulls, or other organic material is helpful in making the soil uniformly moist and moderating soil temperatures. In addition, over time, the decaying mulch will add needed organic matter to the soil.

Watering Provide a minimum of 1 inch of water per week, depending on soil type and weather. This is best done in one application and done so that the foliage is kept dry or at least dry going into the night. Wet foliage, especially overnight, is subject to leaf diseases.

Fertilizing Use either a granular or water soluble fertilizer that is recommended for roses following the manufacturer's direction. Water thoroughly after fertilizing. Roses respond well to fertilization with increased flowering and growth. No fertilizer should be applied after the first of August so that the plant can harden up for winter.

Winter Protection

Tender roses will need protection from our severe Minnesota winters. Although there are many methods to use, including rose cones, we feel the following two methods are most effective. Hardy shrub roses do not need this type of winter protection.

Minnesota Tip Method: Around the middle of October and before the temperature gets down to around 20 degrees Fahrenheit, dig a trench extending out from the base of the bush (Fig. 1). Make it deep enough to accommodate the entire plant. You can put more than one plant in a large



trench. Tie the canes together in a bundle and carefully loosen the soil around the plant with a pitchfork and gently tip the bush into the trench, spray with fungicide such as lime sulphur, and cover with soil. Mulch with leaves or clean straw or hay in late October. In the spring after the ground has thawed (about April 1),

remove all the covering in stages and carefully dig out the plants and replace the soil around them. Water well and fertilize lightly.

Mounding Around mid-October tie all the canes together. Mound the base of the plant with soil, 6" to 8" in depth (Fig. 2). In late October, surround the entire bed or each plant with wire netting and fill this area with dry leaves, straw or hay. Oak leaves work the best. Do not cover with plastic or tarp. In early April remove the leaves and let the soil thaw before pulling the soil away from the base of the plant.

SPRING PRUNING

After standing the plant up in spring, remove any dead wood that has occurred over winter. You may want to cut the longer canes back in order to create a more uniform plant. Cut the canes at a 45 degree angle with a sharp pruner 1/4" above a bud or leaf break (Fig 3).

For hardy roses prune back to live wood or to shape the plant. Don't be overly concerned if there is considerable dieback. Many of the newer hybrid shrub roses will dieback but they rejuvenate from the base each spring.

INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL

Periodic spraying or dusting for all but shrub roses is recommended. A combination insecticide/fungicide should be used according to the manufacturer's directions. Shrub roses need to be sprayed or dusted only occasionally or when problems develop.



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