

Roses



You can depend on the quality of Behnke roses. Our roses will bloom beautifully the first year you plant them. And, with the proper care outlined here, your Behnke roses will thrive and bloom for years and years to come.

Location

Choose a sunny location in which to plant your roses. Although full sun is definitely preferred, roses will usually grow well if they receive at least a half day's sunlight.

Preparing the Rose Bed

Albert Behnke always said, "Dig a \$20 hole for a \$10 plant." He knew that well-prepared soil would produce superior results. Dig your rose bed and work the soil to a depth of 2 to 2½ feet. Roses grow best in a moist, well-drained soil. Check the pH of your soil. The soil around your roses should be 6.5. Use lime, if necessary, to raise the pH. If your soil is heavy clay or drains poorly, you should add organic matter to it. Mix the existing soil with equal parts of top soil and organic matter such as Leaf Gro®, peat moss, peat humus, or fine pine mulch. It is best to let the soil bed settle before planting, but if you want to plant the roses right away, tamp the soil with your feet as you refill the bed.

For each plant, cover the surface of the prepared bed with a few handfuls of garden lime, if needed. Also add one handful of bone meal or superphosphate and a small shovel-full of dehydrated cow manure or a rose fertilizer such as Espoma Rose-Tone®. Spade or mix the lime, phosphate, and fertilizer into the top 6 to 8 inches of the soil.

Planting Roses

1. Dig a hole two to three times wider than your potted rose.
2. Return just enough soil to the hole, tamping well, so that when you place the rose (still in its pot at this point) into the hole the bud union is ½ to 1 inch below the soil level.
3. After adjusting the depth of the hole, remove the potted rose and carefully cut around the bottom of the pot, from drainage hole to drainage hole until the entire bottom comes off.

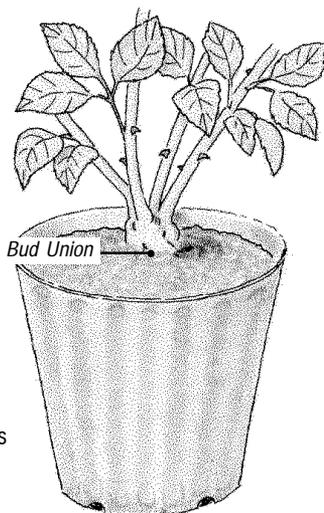
4. Place the rose and its pot into the hole. Again, make sure that the bud union is 1/2 to 1 inch below the soil level.

5. Cut up the side of the pot and remove it, leaving the root ball with its delicate new roots undisturbed in the hole.

6. Fill in around the rootball with the improved soil and tamp firmly.

7. Soak your newly planted rose thoroughly.

8. Apply 2 to 3 inches of mulch, such as shredded hardwood or fine pine.



Fertilizing and Watering

Both newly planted and established roses should be fertilized each month from late March through August. We recommend Espoma Rose Tone®. You also should broadcast bonemeal or superphosphate every second year in January or February.

Roses require regular watering and a well-drained soil. They will not tolerate dry soil or standing water. As a general rule, you should keep the soil evenly moist to a depth of 8 to 10 inches. To help prevent fungal diseases, you should avoid wetting the leaves when watering. The use of a soaker hose is the best way to water your roses.

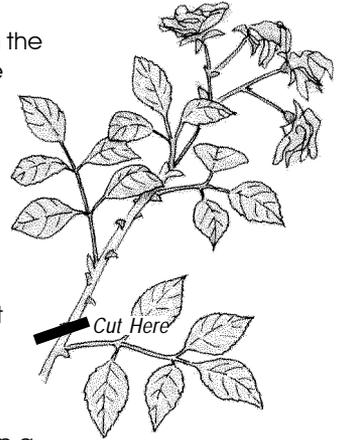
Pruning

Pruning is done to encourage vigorous new growth by removing old, thin and diseased canes and branches. Proper pruning will help prevent diseases by increasing air circulation and will increase flower production.

Behnke roses are pruned in the nursery, and no further shaping will be necessary the first year. Repeat blooming roses, such as hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas, should be pruned in early spring after they break dormancy and begin to leaf out. You should prune all healthy canes to about 18 inches. Also remove completely any diseased canes and branches, any sucker growth, and any thin, spindly growth. True climbing roses should not be pruned back in the spring because they flower once a year on old wood. If needed, climbing roses should be pruned shortly after they have completed their flowering period. As a general rule, if your rose has only a single flowering period, you should

prune it after it flowers. To protect your roses from the rose cane borer insect, you can apply a rose cane sealer to pruning cuts.

You can increase the number of flowers on repeat blooming roses by deadheading the spent flowers. Prune the old flowers by going down the stem below the spent flower to the second five-leaflet leaf and prune at a 45° angle about one-quarter of an inch above that five-leaflet leaf.



Insects and Diseases

A healthy rose is far less susceptible to pests than a rose that does not receive proper care. A sunny location, a well-drained, loamy soil, and regular fertilizing and watering will help to prevent pest problems. But, sooner or later, most roses will need help to overcome an attack. For this reason most rose experts have long recommended a program of regular preventative spraying to keep roses free from pests. Many people are uncomfortable using chemicals and have shied away from growing roses.

Amid the products available for rose care there are organic products that are effective in preventing and treating most common insects and diseases that attack roses. If you have a problem, place a sample of the affected plant in a plastic bag and bring it in to show one of our staff members. They will be happy to make recommendations and help you find a solution that you feel comfortable administering.

Winter Care

Roses, once planted, need a little extra protection to get them through winter without significant damage. In late November or early December pull the soil around your roses up against the plants to a height of 6 to 8 inches. Cover this with a light mulch of straw. When the weather begins to warm up in March, you should remove this excess soil and winter mulch, smoothing out the soil to its regular level.



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