

field notes.

ROSES

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Roses are the iconic, show-stopping, full sun loving garden staples known as the "Queen of the Garden."

- ☐ **Soil Amendment** - If planting location has heavy clay or nutrient-poor sandy soil, amending the soil by adding well aged compost, rose soil mix or garden soil.
- ☐ **Root Stimulator** - Used as a jump-starter and biostimulant for new plantings to help plants establish quicker, increase nutrient uptake, and help prevent transplant shock. (i.e. Vital Earth Root Activator, Ferti-Lome Root Stimulator, Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus)
- ☐ **Mulch** - Used to retain soil moisture, suppress weeds, & provide additional organic matter as it slowly breaks down. Maintain at least a 2-3" thick layer at all times, keeping mulch at least 2" away from the crown of the plant. (best recommendations: Cedar, pine bark or hardwood mulch)
- ☐ **Seasonal Fertilizer** - Try an organic nutrient fertilizers designed for roses. Apply in late winter, fall and spring.

Additional Notes for Success:

- Roses do best in a full-sun location (6-8 hours) with good air circulation and good soil drainage.
- There are 2 primary types of roses:
 - *Grafted Roses* join a desired rose variety with a hardy root system to support better blooms on a more robust roots.
 - *Own-Root Roses* are from cuttings and sometimes take longer to establish but are longer lived.
- Some Rose Classifications:
 - *Antique*: Old Garden Roses (OGRs); any rose class that existed before 1867
 - *Hybrid Tea*: popular for cutting; large, high-centered blooms; one bloom per stem
 - *Floribunda*: continuous bloomers with clusters of blooms
 - *Grandiflora*: cross between hybrid teas and floribundas; often grow tall and bushy
 - *Climbing*: long, stiff cans that can be trained up fences and trellises (technically, not a distinct species)
 - *Miniature*: Compact versions typically 15-30 inches tall; ideal for containers or edging
 - *Shrub and Hedging*: known for being lower-maintenance and providing barriers
- *For Plastic Container Plants*: Soak transplants roots and use root stimulator. Remove from the container, and plant. *For Plants in Paper Fiber Pots*: Soak whole paper pot first, then have 2-3" long incisions made on 2-3 sides of container, with the bottom left intact. Plant, leaving the rose sitting at its original soil level. Lastly, remove the top rim of the pot, and apply mulch.
- Plant roses no deeper than the soil level of the pot. Never cover the graft when planting.
- Newly planted roses require frequent, deep watering to become established. Typically twice per week during the first 3 months. More watering may be needed during the hot summer. Reduce frequency gradually as the plant matures.
- Rose varieties vary in their disease and pest resistance. Keep foliage as dry as possible to minimize fungal problems. Remove any diseased foliage promptly. Use a fungicides and insecticides according to package instructions.
- Most (but not all) roses need a hard pruning around Valentine's Day to prepare for spring blooms. For repeat bloomers, deadhead throughout the growing season and consider another pruning in early-September.

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