



Affiliate of the American Rose Society

BUYING & PLANTING TECHNIQUES

WHERE TO PLANT: Roses require a minimum of six hours of sunlight each day. BETTER Where some shade cannot be avoided, find a location with morning sun at least. Morning sun will help dry dew from the foliage and reduce leaf diseases.

Rose need to well hydrated in the summer months. They do not like wet feet. Sprinkling them from above won't do because the leaves should always stay as dry as possible. The preferred method of watering is with a rubber soaker hose snaked around the base of the rose. An inexpensive water timer which attaches to a faucet can be set to deliver the correct amount of water and then shut itself off.

WHERE TO BUY: Expect to pay premium prices for the best quality plants. Purchase only from reputable sources — a good garden center or nursery, an established rose company or a well-known mail-order source. Cheap plants are just that — cheap — and will often produce poor growth and flowers.

Rose plants are typically graded No. 1, 1-1/2, and 2, based on the size and number of canes. Grade No. 1 indicates top quality. These plants have three to five canes (3/8-inch diameter or larger) 18 inches long. Grade No. 1-1/2 plants will have two canes 15 inches long. Grade No. 2 plants will have two canes 12 inches long. Look for roses with vigorous-looking canes AND avoid those that look shriveled or discolored.

WHICH SOIL Next to sunlight, nothing is more important to rose than the soil. Roses require a well-drained, moderately fertile soil having a pH of 5.5 to 6.8. Proper air spaces between soil particles are essential for air and water movement into and out of the soil. Roses planted too close are prone to heat stress and may result in excessive disease and insect damage

WHICH PLANTING TECHNIQUE Thoroughly dig up the planting area at least 12 inches deep and remove rocks and debris. The best practice is to prepare the soil in an entire bed instead of digging individual holes. Mix 2 shovels of Moo-Doo, 1 Cup Dolomite Line, 1 cup Super-Phosphate, 1 cup Ground Alfalfa two shovels of soil (removed from the hole) per a hole. Thoroughly in the bottom of the hole. Form a cone in the bottom of the hole, DO NOT ADD ANY GRANUAL FETILIZER until the rose has completed one full bloom cycle.

Spacing in the rose bed depends on the variety and growth rate. An average spacing is 3 to 4 feet apart. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the root system without crowding. Separate and spread the roots around the cone. To set the plants at the correct depth, the cone should be high enough so that, when the plant is set on top, the level of the graft union (the swollen area of the main stem) is level at soil level.

Partially fill the hole with soil, shaking it between the roots. When the roots are covered, fill the hole with water and allow it to soak into the soil. Then finish filling the hole. Use your hands to build a ring of soil about 4 inches high around the perimeter of the planting hole. This directs water to the roots while the plant is getting established.