

Basic Rose Care



SUNLIGHT

- **Full sun:** 6+ hours of sun per day; some varieties may tolerate part sun but will have fewer blooms.
- **Provide temporary shade** to new plants during extreme heat.



SOIL & PLANTING

- Ideal planting time is **early Spring or mid to late Fall**—best selection is available in early Spring.

In the Ground

- **Before planting,** water new rose and remove any debris from ground. Allow 3–4 feet between each plant and dig a hole twice as wide as root ball.
- **Mix organic compost** like **G&B Soil Building Conditioner** or **E.B. Stone Purely Compost** with native soil.
- **Plant new rose** at the same level as it was planted in the nursery pot; water thoroughly.

In Containers

- **Use large container** to support root development.
 - » Mini roses: at least 10–12" deep
 - » Floribundas: at least 16" deep
 - » Hybrid tea/shrub roses: at least 18–24" deep
- **Use premium potting soil:** **G&B Organics Potting Soil** or **E.B. Stone Organics Edna's Best**



WATER

- **Water thoroughly** in the morning when rain is not present; twice per week in temperatures under 90°F (more during extreme heat).



FERTILIZER

- **Fertilize** in March when new growth is at least 2 inches long, and once per month until September.
- Use **Portland Rose Society 15-10-10 Fertilizer** or **Portland Rose Society 5-4-4 Organic**.



PRUNING

- **Prune annually** in February to 18 inches tall to maintain plant size and health:
 - » Create an open, vase-shaped plant.
 - » Always cut back to an outward-facing bud.
 - » Remove old, unproductive canes/stumps at the base, crossing canes that run through the middle of the plant, and weak, crowded canes.
 - » Prune off twiggy growth and old leaves.
 - » Clean old leaves off ground to reduce fungus, disease, and insect pests.
- **Deadhead regularly** by cutting the old flower stem just above a set of 5 leaflets.
- **Climbing Roses:** Prune off vertical branches—flowers only bloom on horizontal branches.



WINTERIZATION

- **Prune** long, floppy growth to waist height to reduce potential wind damage; remove crossing canes and clean dead leaves from ground.
- **Mulch** with compost in a thick layer around roses, but leave a small ring around trunk free of mulch.



PESTS & DISEASE

- **Common issues:** aphids, bud worms, caterpillars, spider mites, powdery mildew, rust, black spot
- **Recommended products and solutions:**
 - » Beneficial insects: **ladybugs, lacewings, praying mantises**
 - » Topical pest control: **Neem Oil or MiteX**
 - » Systemic protection (multiple pests/diseases): **Bayer All-In-One, Bonide Rose Rx, Infuse**
 - » Moisture loss reduction: **Wilt-Pruf**
 - » Deer/rabbit repellent: **Liquid Fence or Repels All**

More Resources

Portland Rose Society: Portlandrosesociety.org
Fort Vancouver: Fortvancouverrosesociety.org
American Rose Society: Rose.org