

# Care for Roses

## Pick the Right Site

Roses prefer a sunny spot in the garden. They need at least 5 to 6 hours of direct sun. Also make sure it's a well-drained site. Soil ph should be neutral. Bring us in a soil sample and we can test your soils ph.

## Pick the Right Varieties

There are many varieties of roses to pick from. Some are fussier than others. If you want easy care, go with shrub roses. There are so many great varieties that will flower spring thru fall and are resistant to black spot and powdery mildew. With a little water and spot pruning, they are a wonderful addition to the garden. Look for Knockout Roses, Oso Easy Roses and Drift Roses.

For the gardener who doesn't mind a little more work, there is an endless variety to choose from. Many varieties of your hybrid teas, floribundas and climbers are disease resistant and do well in the garden.

## Add Mulch

One of the most important things you can do for your roses (and other plants as well) is to mulch.

One of the benefits from mulching is you don't have to water as much. Also mulch slows down the growth of weeds. As the mulch breaks down, it improves the quality of your soil.

A 1" to 3" layer of mulch will keep the soil cool on those hot summer days. Make sure not to mound the mulch up around the base of your plants.

## Watering your Roses

During the heat of the summer, roses need about 1 to 1 1/2" of water per week.

Roses can be susceptible to black spot and powdery mildew. Both of these diseases are spread by splashing water. Sprinkler systems where the water hits the foliage every day can make this a serious problem. Soaker hoses work great for growing healthy roses. If you can't place your roses away from the sprinklers, try not watering every day. Early morning is best, so leaves have a chance to dry.

## **Pruning Roses**

We prefer to prune roses in the early spring. At that time, winter damaged can be clipped off along with older canes and diseased stems. You can control your shrub roses this time of the year if you want them shortened.

## **Deadhead Faded Flowers**

Clipping off the faded flowers on your roses keeps them looking good. When you deadhead the faded flowers, more energy goes back into the plant for producing more flowers. With some of the shrub roses, dead heading isn't necessary.

## **Insect and Disease Control**

Black spot and powdery mildew are 2 common diseases on roses. Aphids and Beetles can also be a problem. Bonide has a 3 in one product that's organic and will control many different insects and diseases. There are many products on the market that with regular spraying you can keep your roses looking great.

By keeping your roses healthy and growing them in the right spot, a lot of problems can be prevented.

## **Most Important**

- Sunny location
- Select the right rose
- Water deeply, but not often
- If needed, control black spot and powdery mildew
- Mulch