



588 Lakeridge Road, Ajax (905)427-2525

Rose Care

Schedule of Seasonal Care.

Spring and Summer

- Plant the bud union 5 cm below the soil line.
- Feed with Transplant fertilizer 5-15-5.
- After three or four weeks, change to a brand name rose food. Established roses should be fed every week from early spring to late August.

Fall or early winter

- Change from rose food to 0-0-20 (straight potassium) for overwintering vigor. Let the last flowers go to seed; do not prune.
- When the soil is frozen, tie up the rose canes, install a rose collar and fill it with soil.

The Following Spring

- Remove the collar, and then the soil as it thaws.
- Cut back the strongest canes to 10 or 15 cm, cutting to an outward facing bud.
- Start to fertilize when growth begins. Ever blooming roses need to be well nourished.

Soil

The rose bed or planting hole should be well-prepared. Dig deep, at least 45 cm. The soil should be two parts sandy clay loam, one part well-composted manure and one part peatmoss, plus 4 kg of bonemeal for every 10 square metres or, a cupful for each plant.

Depth of Planting

Choice roses are produced by budding selected types to hardy rootstock. The bud union, which may look like a swollen portion at the bottom of the canes, should, in our Canadian climate, be planted one or two inches below the soil. Be aware that American or English publications may specify the union be above the soil.

Fertilizer

Newly planted, potted roses should be fertilized with diluted transplanter. Follow the label's instructions. Established roses should be fertilized with a name brand rose food. These formulations contain many trace elements essential to the roses' health. Apply in early May, Mid-June and again in mid-July.

Spraying

For disease and insect free roses, use a combination fungicide/insecticide spray at the first signs of infection. Many roses developed today are resistant to many fungus diseases.

Watering

Roses should be watered deeply and well once per week. The best method in beds is to use a trickle hose that can be left running slowly on the ground, thereby avoiding wetting of the foliage and splattering of the soil.

Mulching

A wide variety of mulches are available. They dress the bed, conserve moisture and keep down weeds. Choose from bark nuggets or shredded bark mulch of different varieties.

Winterizing

Start thinking of over-wintering your roses in mid-July at the time of your last fertilization. The rose canes should be allowed to harden off; they should not be succulent. Reduce the watering schedule in the fall. Allow the last flush of flowers on the plant to go to seed.

When the ground is frozen, (not too early, mid to late November) "hill up" the rose canes with soil, which you have kept unfrozen for this specific purpose, to a height of 45 cm. Do not prune at this time, unless the canes are so tall they could whip about in the winter winds, thereby damaging themselves or disturbing the fill of protective soil. Leave as much cane as possible. In beds or in mass planting, rose collars are a must, - they are easy to use and reduce the amount of soil required. Where collars are not used, the hill of soil, once frozen, should be covered with evergreen boughs after Christmas so that the soil remains frozen and does not thaw in mild spells.