

Care of Roses After Planting

Watering

Roses need good drainage – roots should never sit in water. The best way to water is the drip method. Soak the bed slowly and thoroughly to a depth of 10"-12" with a small flow of water. Deep water encourages deep rooting and increased drought tolerance. Watering roses deeply every three to five days is preferable to shallow daily watering. Sprinklers are fine as long as the bed receives enough water to moisten the top 6" of soil. If you water from above, do so in the early morning so the foliage has time to dry. This will discourage disease.



To see if your roses need watering, scrape the surface of the bed. If you don't feel any moisture an inch below the surface, it's time to water.

Containers Be sure there are drainage holes in your container. During the season, watering two to three times a week should be enough. However, if you feel no moisture an inch below the soil surface, it's time to water.

MISTING

After planting, be sure to keep canes and roots from drying out. Use overhead sprinklers or a spray nozzle until foliage growth begins.

Fertilizing

It's important to replace the nutrients your roses take from the soil through the growing season. As soon as your roses are fully leafed out, apply a balanced fertilizer, such as Once, inside the drip line, in a circle a foot or two from the base, as shown in this illustration.



Always apply fertilizers according to the instructions on the product label. The chart below shows an average schedule that you can adjust according to your needs.

Containers After the new growth is off to a good start, fertilize with a liquid plant food.

Use half the recommended amount until the plant is growing well, then increase to the full recommended amount and use according to label directions.

FERTILIZING CHECKLIST

After roses are in full leaf, apply a balanced fertilizer to each plant, following label directions.

1. Fertilize when plants are in full leaf.
2. Fertilize again after first bloom.
3. Fertilize 6 weeks before anticipated first frost (but not after Sept. 1 in most areas).
4. For proper hardening of plants for winter, do not fertilize late in the fall.