

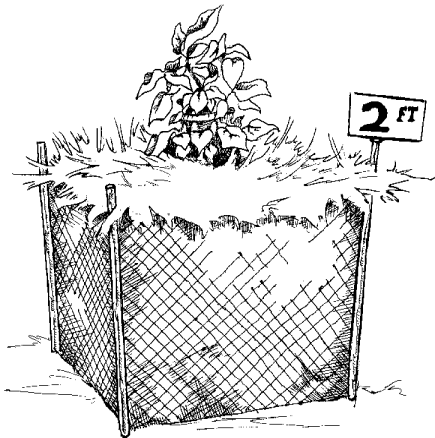
Winter preparations

To prevent their possible destruction, hybrid tea, grandiflora, and floribunda roses should be protected in the fall. Stop deadheading roses in late summer. This allows the development of rose hips, which promotes hardening of plants for the winter months.

Rose plants usually become dormant in late October to early November in northern Iowa and mid-November in central and southern areas of the state. Once dormant, tie the rose canes together with twine to prevent strong winds from whipping and possibly damaging the canes.



Any existing mulch should be removed from the rose bed and approximately one foot of soil mounded over the base of each plant. Place one to two feet of clean, weed-free straw over the mound of soil. A chicken wire fence built around the roses should help hold the straw in place.



Pruning

In early April, remove the protective materials, untie the canes, and then prune out the dead wood. Remove all dead wood using hand pruners or lopping shears. When pruning roses, make the cuts one inch below the dead, brown-colored areas. Make the pruning cuts about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above healthy, outward facing buds.

Fall pruning is not recommended.

For more information

Contact your local ISU Extension office or visit these Web sites:

ISU Extension Distribution Center—
www.extension.iastate.edu/store

ISU Horticulture—
www.yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu

Reiman Gardens—
www.reimangardens.iastate.edu

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REIMAN
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Caring for Roses in Iowa



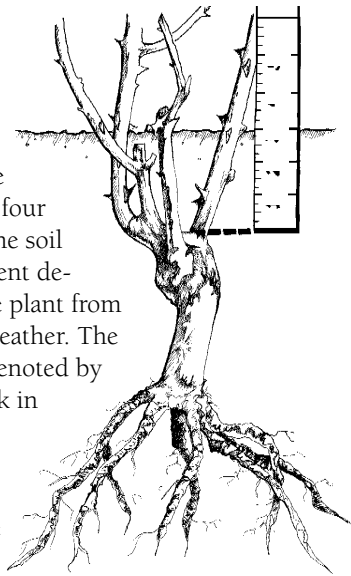
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

A wide variety of roses are available to help fill sunny garden areas. Proper care from planting through pruning will show them off to their best advantage.

Planting

Dormant, bare-root roses should be planted in early spring (late March to mid-April in Iowa). Container-grown roses can be planted from spring to mid-summer.

Begin by digging a hole large enough to accommodate the roots of the plant. In the northern United States, the bud union of hybrid tea, grandiflora, and floribunda roses should be planted two to four inches below the soil surface to prevent destruction of the plant from harsh winter weather. The bud union is denoted by a knob or crook in the stem.



Place the bare-root rose in the center of the hole, spread out its roots, then place soil in the hole, firming it around the roots. Water the plant thoroughly after planting. After watering, mound several inches of soil around the base of the canes to prevent desiccation injury. Remove the mounded soil when growth begins.

Container-grown roses are planted in a similar manner. Carefully remove the rose from the pot without disturbing the soil ball. Place the rose in the pre-dug hole. Fill the hole with soil, and

water thoroughly. It is not necessary to mound soil around the canes of newly planted container-grown roses.

Watering

During dry weather, water roses about every 7 to 10 days. Water slowly but deeply. When watering roses, apply the water directly to the soil around the base of the plant. Avoid overhead watering. Wet foliage increases the risk of disease problems.

Fertilizing

Roses should be fertilized to encourage vigorous growth and abundant bloom. A general all-purpose fertilizer, such as 10-10-10, is recommended. This should be applied at a rate of one pound of fertilizer per 100 square feet or $\frac{1}{4}$ cup per plant. Fertilize three times a year:

- 1) in early spring after pruning,
- 2) during the first bloom, and
- 3) mid to late July.

To discourage late season growth, do not fertilize after July 31. Succulent, late season growth may not harden off properly before winter and may be subject to winter injury.

Deadheading

Deadheading is the removal of old flowers to conserve energy and encourage additional blooms. This procedure should be done at least once a week during the bloom period. The deadheading procedure is slightly different for newly planted and established roses.

Removing too much foliage can reduce a young plant's ability to manufacture food and may weaken the plant. During their first growing season, rose bushes should have the spent flowers removed just above the uppermost three-leaflet leaf.

Established rose bushes can tolerate a greater loss of foliage. The stem should be cut back to a five-leaflet leaf. When deadheading established rose bushes, at least two five-leaflet leaves should remain on each cane.



Weed and pest control

Hoeing, hand pulling, and mulching are the most practical weed control measures for home gardeners. Small weeds are relatively easy to control by hoeing and hand pulling. Applying a mulch—such as bark, wood chips, or cocoa bean hulls—around roses helps control weeds and conserve soil moisture. Also, preemergent herbicides can be applied in the spring to prevent weed seed germination.

When confronted with insect and disease problems, correctly identify the pest and use appropriate control measures. One option is the use of pesticides. Apply insecticides only when the insects are present and causing significant damage to the roses.

Diseases, such as black spot, are often the biggest threat to roses. Fungicides often have to be applied on a regular basis from spring to late summer.

When using pesticides, carefully read and follow directions on the product label. It is a violation of the law to use a pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its label.