

Growing great roses

When you purchase roses which have been potted from bare rooted stock you are assured the plant is viable. These few simple guidelines will help you to succeed with great roses.

First, when you plant the rose into a larger pot or into the garden, carefully trim about 10mm or ½ inch from the base of the root ball when you remove the rose from the pot. This takes away potentially stunted older roots and allows the growth of healthy new roots to go deep into the planting medium for good establishment.

Second, place the rose to a depth so the planting medium comes up to the base of the graft.

Water well when planting out – a good bucket full is perfect. Always try to avoid water on the leaves and flowers of roses – just water the soil around the base. This minimises the chance of fungal attack such as black spot.

Roses are in the “gross feeders” category of plants so feed them with a good organic fertiliser when they first flush their new growth after winter, again about mid November and again in mid January for best flowering results.

A light pruning occasionally – removal of spent flowers, through the growing season is fine. Roses can be pruned by about 1/3 in January when you feed them and then a good prune towards the end of winter. The purpose of pruning during the growing season is to keep fresh new bud coming for flowering. The harder prune in winter is when you open up the centre of the plant for maximum sun penetration. Remove any branches which criss-cross within the plant and any dead branches.

When weeding around roses, take care not to dig into their rootball as this can cause suckering from the rootstock. If this happens, remove the sucker from below the graft.

If you have specific problems with your roses just call us and we'll help if we can.

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