

AN EASY PLAN FOR GROWING ROSES

1. Plant a small number of roses—1-3.
2. Choose a spot in your yard that gets 6 hours or more of sunshine, preferably morning sun, is away from tree roots and other large shrubs, and drains well.
3. Dig a hole twice as big as big around as the size of the pot the rose is growing in and 1 ½ times as deep.
4. Amend the soil with top soil, humus, potting soil, perlite, etc. to make a lighter fluffier soil for better drainage.
5. The PH of the soil should be 6-6.5. Add lime if the number is lower than 6.
6. Provide at least 1” of water each week (about a 5-gallon bucketful if it doesn't rain).
7. Use a product such as Bayer Advance All-In-One Rose & Flower Care. (Available at Lowe's, Home Depot, Walmart, etc.) Follow the directions. This product fertilizes, and provides insect and disease control. One application protects up to 6 weeks. There is no spraying, just mix and pour at the plant base.
8. Also, provide additional fertilizer such as Osmocote Slow Release Pellets. It will fertilize up to 3 months.
9. Mulch the plant and keep the weeds out.
10. Pick the roses and enjoy. Deadhead the plant to keep more roses blooming.
11. Stop fertilizing around August 15 so the plant will do less growing and get ready for winter dormancy.
12. When we get the second hard freeze (around Thanksgiving) cut the canes back so the rose is about 1 ½-2 feet high.
13. Protect the plant by placing mulch or dirt from some other area of the yard around the bush and canes (in the middle) about 8 inches high.
14. In the spring (about the time the forsythia blooms) carefully pull back the mulch or dirt. Cut back the canes to the point where the cane has not been damaged by the winter weather. The inside of the cane should look whitish green (like you just bit into an apple). This will insure a healthy rose bush.
15. If you follow these procedures, you should have a beautiful, healthy rose bush for many years.

*For a climbing rose bush, do not cut the canes back. Climbers are hardier and some only bloom on old wood. In the spring just cut off any dead-looking parts of the rose bush. (However, a climber may need to be cut back after it blooms, just to keep it from getting too large.)

If you are interested in learning more about growing roses, you are invited to visit and/or join the Bowling Green Rose Society. The meetings are normally on the first Friday night of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Alive Center on Nashville Rd. Visit our website at www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org for more information.

We invite you to visit our public garden at the Riverwalk Park. It is near the building where the restrooms are located.