

ROSE CARE

HOW MANY OF YOU ARE CURRENTLY GROWING OR HAVE GROWN ROSES?

MOST OF THEM TAKE A BIT MORE CARE THAN A NORMAL FLOWERING PLANT, SO PLANTING AND LOCATION ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE THE FIRST THING TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE YOU CONSIDER PLANT SELECTION.

CHEYENNE AT THE ELEVATION OF 6000 FEET AND A PREVAILING WIND ARE THE MOST LIMITING FACTORS FOR GROWING ROSES IN HIGH ALTITUDE, ALONG WITH LOW HUMIDITY, VARIABLE CLIMATE AND SUBZERO TEMPERATURES.

SO AN IDEAL LOCATION FOR A ROSE BED WOULD BE:

1. AT LEAST 6 HOURS OF SUN A DAY
2. SOUTHERN AND/OR EAST LOCATIONS
3. WIND PROTECTION
4. GOOD DRAINAGE
5. EASY ACCESSIBLE WATER SOURCE
6. AWAY FROM MATURE TREES AND SHRUBS

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING A ROSE BED WITH MANY PLANTS, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ADEQUATE SPACE IN BETWEEN BUSHES SO THEY ARE NOT COMPETING FOR WATER, NUTRIENTS AND AIR. ALSO, IF YOU CAN PLAN AHEAD AND KNOW YOUR LOCATION FOR A BED, THE SOIL SHOULD BE WORKED AND AMENDED IN THE FALL BEFORE PLANTING IN THE SPRING.

WHEN PLANTING A MORE MATURE AND POTTED ROSE BUSH, THE PLANTING HOLE SHOULD BE DUG NORMALLY TWICE AS DEEP AS THE ROOTBALL AND THREE TIMES AS WIDE. IF YOU ARE PLANTING A GRAFTED ROSE, YOU NEED TO BURY THE GRAFT AT LEAST THREE TO FOUR INCHES INTO THE SOIL.

AMENDING THE SOIL (CHEYENNE)

MOST SOIL HERE ARE CLAY LIKE. AMENDMENTS TO USE WOULD BE COMPOST, WELL ROTTED AND SCENTLESS MANURE AND SOME PEAT MOSS. MIX YOUR AMENDMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE SOIL YOU ARE GOING TO USE IN YOUR PLANTING HOLE. IF NEEDED, LOOSEN THE SOIL BELOW THE PLANTING DEPTH TO BREAK UP THE CLAY AND CREATE MORE AIR SPACES. SOIL IS THE BASIS FOR PLANT GROWTH. SOIL ENRICHMENT SHOULD BE DONE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. AFTER PLANTING, A MULCH OR SHREDDED BARK SHOULD BE SPREAD TO COVER THE SURFACE OF THE SOIL AROUND THE ROSES FOR MOISTURE RETENTION.

WATERING

REGULAR WATERING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ROSES. NEWLY PLANTED ROSES SHOULD BE WATERED EVERY OTHER DAY. ESTABLISHED PLANTS NEED WATER TWO TO THREE

TIMES A WEEK DURING THE GROWING SEASON. WATER SHOULD BE APPLIED ONLY TO THE GROUND OVER THE ROOTS, NEVER WATER OVERHEAD. A SOAKER HOSE OR DRIP SYSTEM IS IDEAL FOR WATERING ROSES. SOAKING A BED DEEPLY HELPS ROOTS GROW DEEPER. WIND AND HOT WEATHER ALSO DETERMINE HOW MUCH WATER SHOULD BE APPLIED DURING THOSE CONDITIONS. WATER ALSO DURING WINTER MONTHS WHEN THE TEMPERATURE IS ABOVE 40 DEGREES.

FEEDING ROSES

THE MORE THE PLANT BLOOMS THE MORE FOOD IT NEEDS TO SUPPORT LEAF AND STEM PRODUCTION. CONTINUAL AND REPEAT BLOOMERS REQUIRES A LOT OF FOOD TO BRING ANOTHER FLUSH OF FLOWERS. SINGLE BLOOMERS NEED ONLY TO BE FED EARLY IN THE SEASON. ONCE THE SECOND BLOOM HAS OCCURRED OR AROUND THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST, TAPER OFF FEEDING. ROSES CAN BE FED USING POWDERED OR LIQUID ROSE FOOD OR TIME RELEASE GRANULES WHICH FEEDS THE PLANT FOR THE ENTIRE SEASON. ADDING EPSON SALTS IN THE SPRING IS HELPFUL TO JUMP START BLOSSOMS.

PESTS AND DISEASES

A REGULAR SCHEDULE OF FERTILIZING AND WATERING YOUR PLANTS WILL DO MORE TO PROTECT THEM FROM INSECTS THAN ANY CHEMICAL INSECTICIDE. SOME OF THE MOST COMMON INSECTS ON ROSES ARE APHIDS, WHITEFLIES, LEAFHOPPERS AND SPIDER MITES.

ROSE APHIDS ARE LIGHT GREEN IN COLOR WHICH MAKE THEM HARD TO NOTICE ON YOUR PLANTS. THEY SETTLE ON NEW SHOOTS, THE UNDERSIDE OF LEAVES, ON STEMS AND ON THE BASE OF THE BUDS. THERE ARE INSECTICIDES FOR INSECT AND DISEASE CONTROL OR YOU CAN TRY SOME NATURAL REMEDIES SUCH AS PLANTING GARLIC, MARIGOLDS OR CHIVES BETWEEN YOUR ROSES. THERE IS A BOTANICAL SPRAY MADE FROM CHRYSANTHEMUMS CALLED PYRETHRUM, WHICH IS EFFECTIVE ON APHIDS, WHITEFLIES AND LEAFHOPPERS.

RUST AND POWDERY MILDEW ARE AGGRAVATED BY WARM DAYS AND COOL NIGHTS. PRUNING FOR AERATION MAY HELP OR COPPER SPRAY CAN BE APPLIED TO THE LEAVES. THE LEAVES THAT ARE AFFECTED SHOULD BE REMOVED WITH PRUNERS WHICH ARE SANITIZED. ALL DISEASED RESIDUE FROM YOUR ROSES SHOULD BE DISPOSED OF IN PLASTIC GARBAGE BAGS AND NOT IN YOUR COMPOST PILE. THERE ARE FUNGICIDE SPRAYS FOR POWDERY MILDEW AND BLACK SPOT AND SHOULD BE SPRAYED EVERY 10 TO 14 DAYS IF THIS PROBLEM OCCURS. KEEP WATER OFF THE FOLIAGE AND REMOVE DEBRIS FROM AROUND YOUR PLANTS FOR INCREASED AIR CIRCULATION.

PRUNING AND DEADHEADING

NEWLY PLANTED ROSES SHOULD BE PRUNED VERY LITTLE IN THE FIRST COUPLE OF YEARS TO PROMOTE MORE LEAF GROWTH WHICH HELPS TO PROMOTE MORE ROOT GROWTH. MINIMAL PRUNING SHOULD ONLY BE DONE TO CUT BACK DEAD, BROKEN OR DISEASED STEMS. ESTABLISHED ROSES EXCEPT SHRUB AND CLIMBING ROSES

CAN BE TRIMMED BACK TO ABOUT 12 INCHES IN THE FALL OR YOU CAN WAIT TIL THE PLANT HAS LEAFED OUT IN THE SPRING AND PRUNE BACK ALL DEAD CANES.

DEADHEADING IS ESSENTIAL TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUAL FLOWER PRODUCTION. CUTTING DOWN TO THE FIFTH LEAF BELOW THE SPENT FLOWER WILL ENCOURAGE MORE SHOOTS TO DEVELOP. THIS PRUNING SHOULD NOT BE DONE TO SINGLE BLOOMING FLOWERS AS IT WILL CANCEL THE PRODUCTION OF ROSE HIPS.

WINTERIZING ROSES

HEAVY MULCHING IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT ROSES OVER THE LONG WINTER. THE ENTIRE PLANT SHOULD BE COVERED WITH SOIL, BARK, MULCH STRAW OR PINE NEEDLES, IF YOU CUT BACK THE ROSE, IF NOT, COVER THE BASE OF THE PLANT WITH SOIL BARK, STRAW OR PINE NEEDLES. MAKE SURE THE GRAFT ON YOUR GRAFTED ROSES IS STILL UNDER THE SOIL BY TWO TO THREE INCHES AS WELL.

ROSE SELECTION

THERE ARE MANY CLASSIFICATIONS OF ROSES. SOME OF THEM ARE, SHRUB, HEIRLOOM, OLD GARDEN ROSES, SPECIES, MINATURES, HYBRID TEAS, CLIMBERS AND FLORIBUNDAS. ROSES THAT DO WELL CONSISTENTLY IN CHEYENNE ARE THOSE THAT ARE NOT GRAFTED. THESE ARE THE ROSES THAT GROW ON THEIR OWN ROOT STOCK. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT ZONE THE PLANT IS HARDY. WE ARE ZONE 3 OR 4 DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE PLANT LOCATION IS PROTECTED.