



Fertilizing

At the end of March:

Push the mulch away from the heart of your plant. Feed with a granular slow release rose food. You can repeat the slow release food again at the end of June.

Beginning late April:

Use 15-30-15 liquid once a month, two weeks later use 20-20-20. This means twice a month you will be giving a liquid drink. Watch your numbers, 'Miracle Grow' does not mean anything to a rose. Finish the liquid fertilizing at the end of August.

At the end of May and the end of July:

Sprinkle a cup or two of Epsom salts around the base of each plant. This helps with the pH of your soil and will give you glossy, healthy leaves. Don't worry about working it in.

Mid-Late October:

When the weather starts to cool, mulch your roses so that the graft is covered. Our preference is to use manure. This will feed your plant as well as protect it from frost, wind and snow.

Really Cold Climates

I remember my grandfather wrapping his roses in insulation before winter hit Alberta. This leaves you with plants wrapped in insulation...not so pretty but your roses will be just fine in the spring.

Disease Care

Remove diseased leaves/branches as soon as possible. Do not compost them or leave them as mulch. All rose leaves should be removed in Autumn. Specific diseases require investigation – bring samples of disease/pests to the nursery in sealed Ziploc bags.

Pruning

Prune your roses lightly in Autumn – 6" to 18" at the most. In late March do a hard prune, removing all diseased and crossing branches. A hard prune makes the plant vulnerable to frost damage.

Always make sure to prune just above an outward facing branch, preferably one that has five leaves.

Dead Head

This means that once the flowers are finished, prune them off. The more frequently that you prune the flowers, the more opportunity your plant has to produce more flowers.

Repeat Blooming

Not all roses bloom repeatedly. Research your varieties before purchasing.

Watering

Roses dislike being watered from above – try to water their base only.