

ROSE PLANTING AND CARE

The essential requirements for roses are:

1. a raised bed with good drainage
2. minimum of 6 hours of sun
3. good air circulation

There are hundreds of roses available today. Many of these are hybrids with gorgeous blooms but weakened genetics. They are quite subject to disease and insect attack unless sprayed on a weekly basis for prevention.

This is too much work for us!

We would rather grow EarthKind varieties that are hardier in their growth habits. To us the blooms are beautiful, the fragrances delightful and the rewards great without all the hassles.

Let's face it, gardening should be fun!

So pick a nice sunny area where water does not stand after a rain. Build a garden bed with lots of compost, lava sand and manure. For more information on bed preparation see our sheet 'Creating a New Bed'.

Mulch with pine needles or shredded hardwood to keep weeds under control and help conserve moisture.

Don't think that rose bushes have to have a special bed of their own. Roses look quite lovely in a perennial garden or planted with flowers and herbs.

Fertilize often to keep the bushes lush and full of flowers. Organic fertilizers can be added as often as every 6 weeks during the growing season. Prune old blooms off as they age to encourage the development of more flowers on the everblooming varieties. Prune bushes significantly around Valentines Day and again around Labor Day to keep the plants full with many branches.

OUR FAVORITE ROSE VARIETIES

Red Cascade climber

The Fairy

Ballerina

Caldwell Pink

Belinda's Dream

Climbing Pinkie

New Dawn

Seafoam

Mutablis

Double Knock Out

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