

LOCATION, SITE PREP & PLANTING

Choose a site with full sun (approx. 6+ hrs a day of direct sun), good air circulation (at least 3' between your rose and other plants), and rich, well-draining soil. If your soil has poor drainage or nutrient retention (common in clay or sandy soils), plant in a berm or raised bed. Dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as your container. If necessary, amend with a good planting mix rich in organic material. Plant with the graft mark (bulbous structure at the base) 2" above the soil, then water deeply to minimize transplant shock.

FERTILIZING

Roses are 'heavy feeders' that will bloom better with regular fertilizing. Sky recommends an organic, slow-release, granular fertilizer. An all-purpose blend is just fine, but you may find that you like one with a higher concentration of phosphorus, to encourage more blooms.

Fertilize at these times according to product instructions, watering in well afterwards:

1. As soon as leaf buds begin to swell (usually mid March to early April)
2. A second time in mid June
3. One final time in mid-late August

You can also add other supplements for specific goals: alfalfa meal for growth regulation, kelp/seaweed or fish meal for disease resistance and micronutrients, and lime for soil pH.

MULCHING

Heavy mulching (year round, especially in the springtime) improves soil texture, adds nutrients/beneficial microorganisms, and protects from summer water loss. Apply 2-4" of compost or fully composted steer manure. Avoid burying the graft line to prevent suckering.

WATERING

Roses really only need deep water once a week in Seattle's dry summer months to encourage a robust root system and reduce risk of disease. Keep in mind: deeper, less frequent watering is always better than shallow, frequent watering! Drip irrigation or hand watering is better than a sprinkler or overhead water systems. Avoid wetting the foliage to help prevent disease.

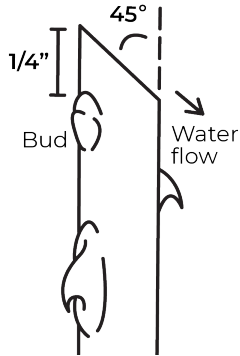
DISEASE & INSECT CONTROL

Common rose problems in the NW include black spot, powdery mildew and beetles. Stressed roses are more susceptible due to lack of sunlight, air, nutrients, and/or water, as well as varieties that do not offer any genetic disease resistance.

To minimize disease in roses:

1. Choose disease-resistant roses for our climate (Check Sky's List & Signs)
2. Keep your roses happy! Follow basic care instructions above.
3. Ensure good air circulation by regularly pruning dense foliage. Roses love pruning!
4. Additional supplements can also help to boost a rose's disease resistance

Remember, even the happiest of roses can get sick and need chemical intervention. See a Sky associate for more earth-friendly fungicide/insecticide recommendations. *If you have to spray, be sure to do it in early morning to reduce danger to pollinators.*



A Proper Rose Cut:

Make your cuts a 1/4" above an outward facing leaf bud (so new growth will grow outwards) at a 45° angle away from the center of the plant. so that water will flow away from the bud.

PRUNING MOST ROSES

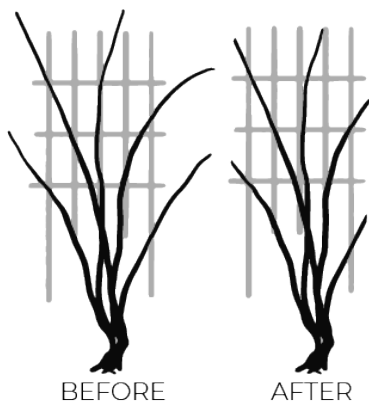
Here in the PNW, we prune roses late February to mid-March, while the plants are still dormant but after hard freezes are likely. Each year is different; be sure to check temperatures for your area. As you prune, the goal is to remove all but 4-5 of the healthiest looking canes.

1. Remove dead, old, or weak canes
2. Prune canes to open up the center of the shrub, aiming for an open "vase" shape.
3. Once you have 4-5 strong canes, cut them back based on the width of the cane: 6-8" long if as wide as a pencil, 8-12" long if the canes are as thick as your pinky, 12-18" long if index-finger width.

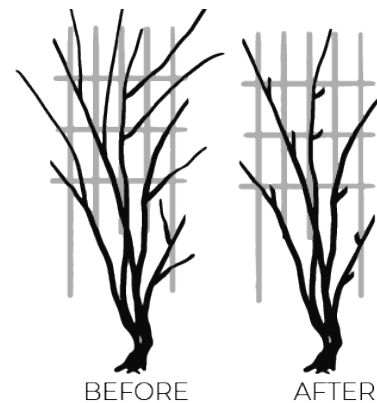


PRUNING: CLIMBING ROSES

Climbing roses produce long canes that, with proper pruning, will grow abundant flowers on your trellis, fence, wall, or archway. For the first few years after planting, only prune out dead or weak canes. Prune in Feb-March as with other roses. Otherwise, do not prune until your climbing rose has become established on its support.



YEAR 2-3 Cut canes back to the edge of your structure to encourage dormant lateral bud growth.



YEAR 4-5 Cut lateral growth back to 2nd or 3rd bud, keeping 4-5 healthy canes.

Other roses, such as groundcover varieties, don't require as much pruning, but will benefit from occasional trimming to reinvigorate them and encourage more blooms. *If you have any further questions, feel free to speak to a Sky associate. Enjoy your roses!*