

LOCATION, SITE PREP & PLANTING

Choose a planting site that offers full sun (approx. 6 hours a day of direct sun), good air circulation (aim for at least 3' between your rose and other plants), and rich, well-draining soil. If your soil has poor drainage or nutrient retention (clay or sandy soils), plant in a berm or raised bed. Once you have a spot, dig a hole twice as wide and as deep as your container. If necessary, amend your existing soil with good planting mix and plant your rose with the graft mark (bulbous structure at the base) above the soil. Water deeply to minimize transplant shock.

FERTILIZING

Roses are heavy feeders that need consistent nutrients to bloom at full potential. Sky recommends using organic fertilizer like Dr. Earth or E.B. Stone Rose and Flower Food, or Hendrikus Organic's "Bouquet." *Ideally, you want to fertilize three times in a season:*

1. As soon as the rose begins to leaf out (usually mid March to early April)
2. A second time in mid - June
3. One final time in mid - late August

Follow fertilizer instructions and water deeply afterwards. You can also add other supplements, when not fertilizing, for specific goals: alfalfa meal for growth regulation, kelp/seaweed or fish meal for disease resistance and micronutrients, and lime for gen. soil health.

MULCHING

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

WATERING

Roses really only need deep water once a week in the 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 include black spot, powdery mildew and beetles. They tend to affect roses that are under stress from 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 varieties that are suitable for our PNW climate
2. Put simply, keep your roses happy! Follow all care instructions on the previous page.
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

Even the happiest of roses gets sick sometimes and may need chemical intervention.

Luckily, there are plenty of earth-friendly options:

- Bonide's Neem oil - organic fungicide, but also acts as an insecticide and miticide
- Bonide's "Bon-Neem" and "Rose Rx 3X1" - versatile fungicide-miticide-insecticide sprays
- Safer's "3-in-1 Garden Spray" - organic fungicide-miticide-insecticide spray
- Safer's insecticidal soap - standalone aphid/insect treatment

Always spray in early morning to allow foliage to dry completely and to reduce the danger to pollinators.

PRUNING: HYBRID TEAS & OTHER SHRUB ROSES

Here in the great 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.

Here's how:

1. Remove dead, old, or weak canes
2. Then, prune canes to open up the center of the shrub, aiming for a "vase" shape.
3. Once you have 4-5 strong canes left, cut them back to lengths 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 they are index-finger width



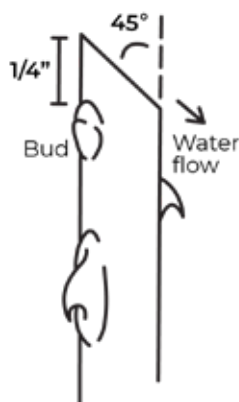
READY TO PRUNE



4-5 HEALTHY CANES



CUT BACK



A Proper Rose Cut:

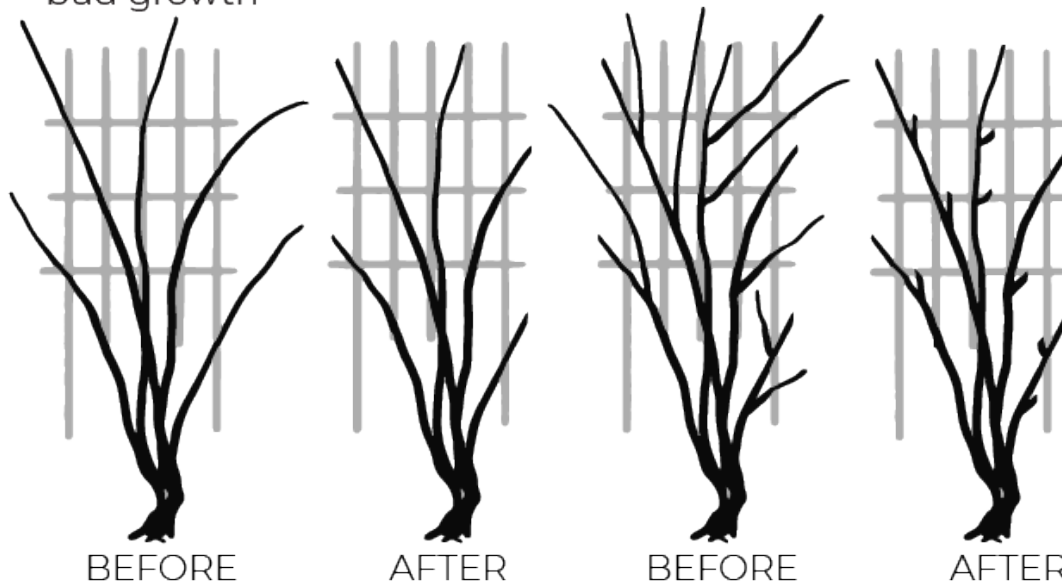
Anytime you prune a rose, make your cuts a 1/4" above an outside facing leaf bud (so that the new growth will grow outwards) at a 45° angle so that water will flow away from the bud.

PRUNING: CLIMBING ROSES

Climbing roses are unique in that they produce long canes that can be fastened to structures to create stunning affects. Proper pruning encourages abundant flowers on your trellis, fence, wall, or archway. For the first few years after planting, the only pruning needed is to remove dead and weak canes. Prune in February-March as with other roses. Do not prune until your climbing rose has become established on it's support.

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

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



Other roses, such as groundcover varieties, will not require as much regular pruning, but will benefit from occasional trimming to reinvigorate the plant and encourage abundant blooms. *If you have any further questions, feel free to contact the Seattle Rose Society or speak to a Sky associate. Enjoy your roses!*