



Roses need at least six hours of sunshine a day.

Roses are one of the most popular and beautiful flowers in any garden, but growing them may seem daunting to new gardeners.

When growing roses, it's important to choose a site that will allow your blooms to receive at least six hours of sun each day.

Rose bushes must also be located in well-drained, fertile soil. Plant dormant roses in early spring (or fall).

Growing Roses

When you're planting bare root roses, presoak them in water for at least 24 hours prior to placing them in the ground. Both bare root and potted rose bushes need to be planted about two feet deep, with the hole large enough to accommodate the roots. Backfill the hole with soil, adding some well-rotted manure in with it and water thoroughly. Then mound up additional soil around the

base of the plant. Note that this is not necessary for actively growing roses.

Caring for rose bushes is important to their overall health and vigor, especially when it comes to watering. Roses require at least an inch of water weekly throughout their growing season, beginning in spring or following spring planting. While overhead watering is suitable before

the onset of new growth, it is often better to water these plants at the soil line using soaker hoses or similar means. Rose bushes are very susceptible to fungal diseases, such as black spot and powdery mildew, especially when their foliage is kept too wet.

Fertilizer for roses should also be applied in spring, following the label instructions carefully. However, with the addition of well-rotted manure each spring, this is usually adequate. Mulching your rose bush will help retain moisture and may also offer some winter protection.

Pruning is another thing to consider when caring for rose bushes. This often takes place once leaf buds appear in spring. Make cuts about

1/4 inch above the bud eyes and prune out any twiggy or unhealthy branches. Starting a rose garden and knowing how to take care of roses shouldn't be intimidating. In fact, it's easier than you might think. Just give them what they need and before you know it, you'll be rewarded with beautiful blooms.

Rose Bush Types

Rose bushes come in a variety of forms, from climbing roses to miniature rose plants, blooming mainly in early summer and fall. One way to group roses into classes is according to their date of introduction:

Old roses—also called “old-fashioned roses” and “heirloom roses”—are those introduced prior to 1867. These are the lush, invariably

fragrant roses found in old masters' paintings. There are hundreds of old rose varieties—whose hardiness varies—providing choices for both warm and mild climates.

Modern hybrid roses, introduced after 1867, are sturdy, long-blooming, extremely hardy and disease-resistant, and bred for color, shape, size, and fragrance. The hybrid tea roses, with one large flower on a long cutting stem, are one of the most popular hybrids.

Species, or wild roses, are those that have been growing wild for many thousands of years. These wild roses have been adapted to modern gardens and usually bloom from spring to early summer. Most species roses have single blossoms.

Choosing from all the possibilities can be a daunting task. Take your time and wander through nurseries to enjoy the beauty of roses!

Planting

If you order bare-root roses from a mail-order company, order early (late winter or early spring). The roses are usually shipped in the spring because bare roots when plants are fully dormant, well before they have leafed out. They'll look like a bundle of sticks on arrival. Note that they are not dead—simply dormant. Check that the packing material is moist and keep them in a cool dark place until ready to plant.

If you are buying container-grown roses (vs. bare-root roses), it's best to plant them by late spring

or early summer for best results. However, you can plant them most any time.

Selecting and Preparing a Planting Site

The Plant roses where they will receive a minimum of 5 to 6 hours of full sun per day. Morning sun is especially important because it dries the leaves, which helps prevent diseases. Roses grown in partial sun may not die at once, but they weaken gradually, producing subpar blooms

and overwintering poorly.

Remember that light changes as the angle of the sun shifts throughout the season. If you live in the upper half of the U.S., choose a site that will offer full sun year-round. The more sun you have, the more flowers your plants will produce. In the lower half of the U.S., choose spots with a little bit of afternoon shade. This protects blossoms from the scorching sun and helps your flowers last longer.

If you live in a colder climate,

Is growing rose bushes easy? Well, while some varieties may be finicky, there need not be any great mystery, in general, surrounding the growing of this traditional favorite, and some types are even easy to grow. The formula for success is the same that all plants live (or die) by: Provide the right amounts of sun, water, drainage, and rich soil.



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consider growing roses close to the foundation of your home. This provides plants with some degree of winter protection. Walkways are also good spots provided there is full sun.

Roses need a soil that drains well but holds onto moisture long enough for the roots to absorb some. One of the worst mistakes you can make is to not provide adequate drainage. Roses do not like wet, cold feet.

Roses like loose, loamy soil

leaning more toward sandy. Too much clay and the roots can become waterlogged. If you are not starting out with a loose, loamy soil, you will need to do some amending.

If you're planning multiple roses, do not crowd. Provide good air circulation to avoid powdery and downy mildew.

Roses prefer a near-neutral pH range of 5.5–7.0. A pH of 6.5 is just about right for most home gardens (slightly acidic to neutral).

The idea behind deadheading roses is the same as it is for any other plant. Removing spent blooms from rose bushes is a way of channeling plant energy into areas where it is needed more.

