

BRECK'S®

Bulbs Direct to You from Holland Since 1818

Rose Care Guide

Congratulations on your investment of roses, America's floral emblem! Your new rose bush will provide stunning colour, fragrance and texture in just about any garden setting. And unlike roses of old, today's modern roses require surprisingly little care. By following just a few basic care tips, your rose will thrive beautifully for years.

In an effort to ensure your rose growing success, all of the roses in your shipment have been professionally pre-pruned. Both the tops and roots have been pruned to help reduce transplant shock and to ensure healthy, vigorous top growth.

UPON ARRIVAL

To plant right away, remove roses from shipping container and soak the roots in a pail of water for at least an hour (but no more than 12 hours) just before planting.

Select a location in full sun (at least 6 hours per day) well-drained soil.

If planting must be delayed, open the plastic bag your roses are in and cover the roots with damp newspaper to keep them moist. Partially close the plastic bag, and store in a cool, sheltered area away from sun and wind. Keep the newspaper/roots moist until you are ready to plant.

***Tip:** Never leave bare-root plants exposed to sun and wind. They must be kept moist and cool at all times prior to planting.*



PLANTING YOUR ROSES

Although your roses can be planted at any time, best results are achieved when they are planted on a cloudy, calm day. Dig a hole 12–18" deep and wide enough so all of the roots can be spread out without touching the sides of the hole. Mix the soil from the hole with a good measure of leaf mold, peat moss, manure or compost. Mound a cone of soil in the centre of the hole.

Trim off any broken roots, then spread healthy roots around soil mound with bud union (the knot at the base of the plant) at ground level for mild climates, 2–3" below ground level for cold climates.

Fill hole half full with soil mixture, and water well to settle soil and eliminate air pockets. Let water drain—this is a good way to be sure your rose will have adequate drainage.

Fill remainder of hole with soil mixture. Water thoroughly again. Then, mound loose soil up and around canes to protect the plant from sudden temperature changes. Gently wash away soil to ground level when rose is well-sprouted.

CONTINUING CARE

Watering — Roses require the equivalent of 1" of rainfall each week. They will bloom best if their roots are kept moist but not waterlogged. Water thoroughly—a slow, deep soak at the ground is most efficient. Don't water from above—avoid getting foliage wet, as this can encourage disease problems.

Deadheading, the process of removing faded blooms from your rose plants, is the best way to keep hybrid tea, grandiflora and floribunda roses blooming all season. When you deadhead, cut back below the first five-leaflet stem to promote strong return growth. Removing any dead flowers prevents the formation of hips, so plants can direct their energy to developing new blooms and foliage. Most shrub roses we offer are self-cleaning. The petals drop on their own as they mature, and new blooms come behind them.

In the Winter — After the first killing frost of fall, make a mound of loose soil at least 8" high over the base of the plant in zones 5 and below. Then cover the mound and remaining exposed canes with hay, straw, grass clippings, oak leaves or similar material.

In the Spring — Modern roses should be pruned early in the spring, when about half of the growth buds swell. First remove any dead or damaged canes. Next you should cut back about one-third to one-half of the previous year's growth. Then remove any crossing canes. Finally, you will want to remove any suckers.

ROSES IN CONTAINERS

Most roses will thrive and bloom in containers as well as in the garden. Good drainage is essential. Make sure the container has drainage holes, and add gravel or some coarse material at the bottom of the pot to further promote proper drainage.

The soil level should be about 2" below the rim of the pot, to make watering easier. Water thoroughly to settle the soil. A good watering twice a week is usually sufficient, but check the soil to make sure it stays moist. Fertilize twice a month **after** the plants have leafed out.

Winter protection is very important, especially where temperatures dip below 29°F. Move your containers to an unheated garage or cellar. Withhold fertilizer, and water just enough to keep the soil slightly moist. When danger of frost has passed in the spring, bring the container outside, water thoroughly and prune your roses.



LIFETIME GUARANTEE

If, for any reason, you're not completely satisfied with any plant upon receipt, after planting or once it grows and blooms, just contact Breck's® anytime—no time limit—for as long as you garden. No need to return any plant. We'll send a full refund or replacement, whichever you prefer.

Your satisfaction is of primary concern to us. If you have any questions regarding your order, please contact our customer service representatives:

In the U.S.: You may call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 513-354-1512.

Send mail to U.S. Reservation Centre, Breck's Customer Service, P.O. Box 65, Guilford, IN 47022-0065. Or e-mail us at: service@Brecks.com.

In Canada: You may call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 800-644-5505.

Send mail to Canadian Order Processing Centre, Breck's Customer Service, 9353 Graham Road, West Lorne, Ontario N0L 2P0. Or e-mail us at: service@BrecksBulbs.ca.

CAUTION: *Not all plant material is edible. Although most plants are harmless, some contain toxic substances that can cause headaches, nausea, dizziness or other discomforts. As a general rule, only known food plants should be eaten. In case of ingestion, please contact your local poison control centre at once and advise them of the name of the plant ingested. Keep out of the reach of children.*

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