

ROSES

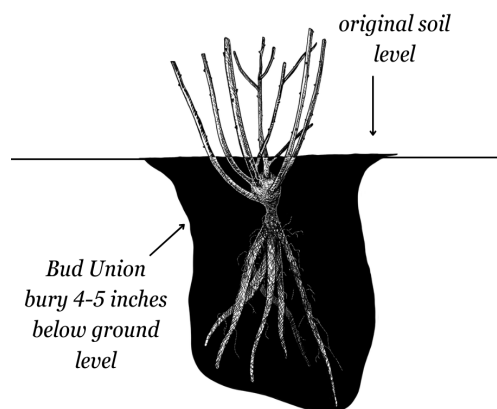
Rosa spp.

PLANTING

Roses are best grown in **full sun**, which is defined as a minimum of 6 hours of direct, unfiltered sunlight. Morning sun is best.

Follow instructions in our [Planting Guide](#) to properly plant your roses with a few rose-specific modifications below.

Dig a hole at **least twice the size** of the pot in both width and depth. The goal is for the rose bud union to be **at least 4-5 inches** below ground. See illustration below.



Remove rose from the pot and place into the hole, **without** disturbing the root ball, ensuring the rose bud union is deep enough below the soil level. **Check daily for water until established**, water deeply (2-3 gallons) two to three times a week thereafter.

FERTILIZING

Roses are known to be heavy feeders. Spread ½ to 1 cup **Espoma Rose-Tone** around the drip line of the bush and work into the topsoil upon planting. Water in well. Feed with 1 cup granular (or ½ cup any 5-10-5) fertilizer 2 weeks after planting then once a month through August. Excessive heat causes rose growth to slow down, when temperatures reach 90°F or higher, reduce the amount of fertilizer by half.

Tip: Optional soil amendments can include chopped up banana peels, used coffee grounds, and crushed eggshells.

PRUNING

It's best to dead-head throughout the season to encourage more growth. Be sure to sanitize your tools with rubbing alcohol before making any cuts, and in between plants, to ensure no disease or bacteria transfer.

Prune with the **Four Ds in mind**, prune when a cane is:

- Dead
- Damaged
- Diseased
- And for Design

Cut at a 45° angle with the top angle pointing in towards the plant, allowing water to run off rather than pooling in the cut. **Never prune more than 1/3 of the rose bush at a time.**

Do not prune in the fall, unless it is very late fall and you are sure the roses are dormant. Every cut encourages new growth. Be careful and thoughtful about your pruning. Strive to maintain its natural, graceful form. For a visual demonstration of these techniques see our video "Pruning Roses with Jeannette" at mahoneysgarden.com/video-how-to-pruning-your-roses/

COMMON PROBLEMS + SOLUTIONS

A rose planted in optimal conditions - full sun, in healthy, well-drained soil, and provided adequate water - is less likely to suffer from disease or insect problems. Keep the garden clean of debris like petals and leaves.

Cane borers are insects that nest in the pith of freshly pruned roses. Prevent them from getting in using a small dab of Elmer's glue on the fresh cut after pruning to seal up the wound. Pay close attention to the rose for signs of diseases such as leaf spot or powdery mildew, or insect damage from aphids, and seek appropriate treatment.

Additional information available from The New England Rose Society at rosepetals.org

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