

Varieties

Roses fall into three categories: those used for their beautiful cut flowers, those used as landscape spectaculars, and those which can serve both purposes. They are further divided into the following types:

Hybrid Tea: 4-6 feet tall. Known as the “queen of Roses,” these roses have perfectly formed large buds on long stems in a wide assortment of colors. They generally bloom one bud per stem, making them ideal for vases and cut flower arrangements.

Floribundas: 2-4 feet tall. Primarily landscape roses. These lower-growing roses produce clusters of flowers in various from tea-like to informal. Use as hedges, borders, in mass plantings or in pots.

Grandifloras: 6-8 feet tall. The large flowers grow singularly or in long-stemmed clusters. Use for mass color effect, background or barrier hedges. Plants produce beautiful flowers for cutting over a long season.

Tree Roses: Artificially created by grafting a popular flowering variety on top of a 2 to 3-foot high, understock stem, resulting in an outstanding accent to gardens and patio containers. As the plant enlarges, stake the plant to support the weight of the bush.

Climbing Roses: This class of roses produces long, arching branches, ideal for covering arbors, fences, and espaliered on walls. Climbing roses do not twine and must be tied to their supports.

Old (Antique or English) Roses: These roses belong to the various rose classes that existed prior to 1867, the year the first Hybrid Tea Rose was introduced. Their disease resistance and vigor have allowed them to withstand the test of time.

Miniatures: 12-18 inches. These tiny replicas have the same bud and bloom shape, fragrance, color, foliage and growth habits of their full-size relatives. Perfect for low borders, pots or hanging baskets.

All roses sold at Rockledge Gardens are selected for performance in Florida’s climate.

Planting

Select a sunny location—morning sun is a must to minimize diseases.

Plant roses no closer than 3-feet apart to provide proper air circulation.

Roses are heavy feeders and due to Florida’s poor soil, it is necessary to heavily amend the planting site with a mixture of equal parts native soil and **Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix** and 2 cups of **Rose-Tone** and ½ of a **Coir Brick** (coco fiber).

When planted, the top of the root ball should be slightly above ground level. Gently remove the rose from its container without disturbing the rootball and center it in the planting hole. Backfill the hole with the mixture, watering as you go to remove air pockets. Build a firm ring of soil around the outside perimeter of the rootball for water retention. Roses can also be mulched to help keep the roots cool.

Watering

Water newly-planted roses deeply every 2 to 3 days for the first month. Thereafter, water as needed and adjust according to weather conditions. Roses can survive brief periods of “thirst” so don’t over-water. It is best to water early in the morning to wash morning dew from the foliage. This will reduce the likelihood of fungus.

Fertilizing

We suggest fertilizing with **Espoma Rose-Tone**, **Osmocote Plus** or **Dynamite 13-13-13 (red)**. Fertilize every 6 weeks with Rose-Tone and every 3 to 4 months with Osmocote Plus or Dynamite, excluding summer months due to the fertilizer ban.

Pruning

Invest in quality pruners — avoid anvil pruners. Remove “suckers” from below the graft union and canes exhibiting disease symptoms whenever they are present. As blossoms expire, or when cutting flowers for indoor use, cut stems ¼- inch above a

five-leafed leaflet. The bud located where such a leaf meets the stem will grow in the direction of the leaf, so cut above a leaf that is growing outwardly.

Major pruning should be performed between mid-December and mid-January. A second, lighter pruning should be done in late July or early August to remove any visible evidence of summer stress. Roses should have at least three healthy canes, but not so many that air circulation is compromised.

Pests and Diseases

Roses with all of their rewards are not carefree. Typical rose pests include: **aphids**, which are small insects fond of new growth; **thrips**, which as adults are tiny black insects fond of light-colored blossoms; **spider-mites**, which are almost microscopic and whose damage results in a 'silver'

coloration of the foliage; and various **beetle larvae**, which attack flower buds, foliage, and pruning wounds. **Fertilome Systemic Insecticide** should keep pests off your roses all season if used regularly. If in doubt about a rose problem, come to us for assistance with a sample for proper diagnosis.

Typical diseases of roses include **powdery mildew** and **black-spot**. Their names are apt descriptions of their symptoms. The best disease control is prevention. Maintain a 'clean' environment for your roses with ample air circulation. Remove diseased tissue and leaves. Replace mulch periodically. **Fertilome Systemic Fungicide** is recommended by the American Rose Society for most fungal problems. Again, please ask us when in doubt. We're here to help

Growing Roses in Containers

Growing roses in containers allows you to bring the beauty of this plant into your patio and other outside living areas. Just follow these simple instructions for success.

Supplies Needed:

- 15-gallon size container
- 2 bags **Happy Frog**
- ½ **Coir Brick**
- 5 lbs **Espoma Rose-Tone**
- 1 Rose*

Directions:

- Prepare (use directions on product) **Coir Brick** 20 minutes prior to beginning the project.
- Blend Coir Brick with **Happy Frog Potting Soil** and add 2 cups of **Espoma Rose-Tone**.
- Remove rose from the nursery pot leaving the existing soil around the root ball as undisturbed as possible. Add enough soil to the bottom of the pot so the rose is planted at the same level as in the original pot. Carefully place the rose in the new container and add soil around the plant. Add soil loosely—do not tamp down! Water thoroughly and add additional soil as needed.
- Never bury the graft. Always plant grafted roses below the graft.
- After 4-6 weeks, add rose fertilizer: **Espoma Rose-Tone**, **Osmocote Plus** or **Dynamite 13-13-13 (red)**. Fertilize every 6 weeks year-round with Rose-Tone, every 3 to 4 months with **Osmocote Plus** or **Dynamite**.
- Water according to need.

* If planting miniature roses, a 3-gallon size container is adequate.