

### Varieties

Roses fall into three broad 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:** Known as the “queen of Roses,” this category of roses has perfectly formed large buds on long stems in a wide assortment of colors. They generally bloom one bud per stem, making them ideal for bud vases and cut flower arrangements. Plants grow 4 to 6 feet tall.

**Floribundas** are primarily landscape roses. They are lower-growing than Hybrid Teas or Grandifloras and bloom more freely, producing clusters of flowers. Bloom shapes vary from tea-like to informal. Use as hedges, borders, in mass plantings or in pots. Plant size generally varies from 2 to 4 feet tall.

**Grandifloras** grow 6 to 8 feet tall and have large flowers that 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** are artificially created by grafting a popular flowering variety on top of a 2 to 3-foot high, straight understock stem. The resulting creation makes 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, which are 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 are varieties that 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:** These tiny replicas have the same bud and bloom shape, fragrance, color, foliage and growth habits of their full-size relatives. Only 12 to 18-inches in height, they are perfect for low borders, pots or hanging baskets.

All roses sold at Rockledge Gardens are selected by our grower because of their performance in Florida’s climate. Every year we select new varieties to Brevard, as well as reject those which fail our expectations.

### 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 Florida, with its poor soil, provides a hostile environment. It is therefore necessary to heavily amend the planting site. Dig a hole approximately 18-inches wide by 18-inches deep.



Prepare a mixture of equal parts of native soil and Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix. To this, incorporate 2 cups of Rose-Tone and ½ of a Coir Brick (cocofiber). Fill the bottom of the hole with enough of this mixture so that, when planted, the top of the root ball is 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. This will provide for water retention later. Roses can also be mulched to help keep the roots cool.

### Watering

Newly-planted roses should be watered 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

Roses are heavy feeders. We suggest fertilizing with 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.

### Pruning

Invest in a quality pruner—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

# Rockledge Gardens



2153 S. U.S. #1 • Rockledge, FL 32955

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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!

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## 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 Fafard Container Mix
- 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 Fafard Container Mix and add 2 cups of Espoma Rose-Tone.
- Remove rose from 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 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.

ENJOY YOUR ROSES!