

# Basic Rose Care



## LATE WINTER-EARLY SPRING: PRUNE!

*(Use the bloom time of forsythia as an earmark, usually late March to early April)*

1. Remove diseased or damaged wood first and use this opportunity to shape the shrub. Prune the shrub back to stimulate new growth. Hybrid tea roses should be pruned hard.
2. Topdress and work a good compost into the soil. This is your best organic defense for disease control.
3. Begin a monthly feed program. (Granular slow-release fertilizer such as RoseTone)

Consider a spray program to help prevent fungal diseases particularly if you have disease prone varieties or have had problems in prior seasons. Remember you are using a chemical; read and follow the manufacturer's directions. **DO NOT APPLY SPRAYS WHEN SUN IS ON THE PLANT.** Wait for a cloudy day or at dusk. (Many products work at the expense of beneficial organisms and insects, both of which help to promote a healthy plant. A proper diagnosis of plant issues is critical for selecting an appropriate treatment with minimal toxicity.)

## AFTER THE FIRST FLUSH OF BLOOM

1. Add a liquid fertilizer to your feed program. *(Use in between the monthly granular)*
2. Deadhead faded blooms to a set of 5 leaves facing outward from the plant. Don't be afraid to go down the stem, particularly with hybrid tea roses.
3. **Water deeply once a week, more so if we experience drought conditions.**

Be on the lookout for fungal diseases (Blackspot and/or Powdery Mildew) and treat as necessary. Dry conditions followed by humid conditions will often trigger these problems. Give the roses ample space at planting for good air circulation to alleviate these potential issues. Try a fish emulsion foliar spray! Excellent non-toxic alternative for plant/leaf health.

## LATE AUGUST-EARLY SEPTEMBER

1. Stop all feed programs and let the roses begin the process of dormancy; however, keep them adequately watered.
2. Stop deadheading and let rose hips form for late-season interest in the garden by leaving the spent blooms on the plant. Rose hip formation signals the plant to begin dormancy.
3. Don't prune at this point, wait for early spring.

## LATE FALL

Clean the beds (and plants) of all leaves to help prevent the spread of fungal disease next season. **This is very important!**