



ROSE PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Roses are sun-loving plants and should have at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, morning sun preferred. Plant roses away from other trees and shrubs, if at all possible, to stop invading roots from robbing roses of water and fertilizer. These are the optimum conditions for roses.

Potted roses can be planted at any time, but the best time is in Spring before the heat of Summer. Bare root bushes can be planted until the middle of March, after which our heat will dry out the bush before it can get established.

Because of our soil conditions HRS recommends planting roses in raised beds. Raised beds ensure good drainage, for roses do not like to have their "feet wet." If you wonder whether you have soil with good drainage, do this simple test: dig a hole about the size needed to plant a rose and fill it with water. If the water does not drain out in a reasonable period of time, then a rose will not do well in this location.

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On the back of this sheet are illustrations that graphically show how to plant potted and bare-root roses. For a **potted rose**, follow steps 1P-4P, and for a **bare-root rose**, follow steps 1B-4B.

POTTED ROSES. After that "just perfect" potted rose is selected, dig a hole in the prepared bed. The hole should be twice the diameter of the pot the rose came in. The depth should be enough to have the bud union 2" above the soil line. It is very difficult to work with a hole that is too small.

While the potted rose is still in the container, set it into the hole to verify that the hole is the correct size and depth. If the rose bush is leafed out, it is important not to disturb the roots while planting the bush. At this point the plant is developing feeder roots in the soil contained in the pot. Disturbing these roots exposes them to air which can send the plant into transplant shock. Loosen the soil in the bottom of the hole and add a handful of bone meal or superphosphate to assist the plant in developing its root system. **Do not add any fertilizer to the planting hole.**

Removing the pot without disturbing the roots is easy by using a utility knife to cut the bottom out of the plastic pot. Cut all the way around the bottom, going from each drain hole to the next, until the bottom of the pot can be removed. Use the knife to cut a slit halfway up the sides of the pot. Set the pot into the hole in the bed, using your hand to keep the plant from slipping out and losing its soil. Once the plant is in the hole and is properly placed, put soil up around the pot, finish slitting the sides, then remove the remainder of the pot.

Complete filling the hole around the root-ball with soil, but do not tamp the soil down with a shovel or your foot. Once the soil is added back to the original level, create a ring (dike) around the perimeter of the hole, and slowly fill the area with water. Use the water to settle the soil and remove air pockets. Allow water to soak in, then refill the depression again. After water drains, fill the hole completely with remaining soil mix.

BARE-ROOT ROSES. For bare-root roses, soak roots overnight in a bucket of water. Shorten canes to about 12", to a good outside bud eye. Also remove any broken roots. Build a cone of soil in the planting hole to support the root system of the bush. The cone can be soil alone, or a little bone meal or superphosphate can be added to help in root development. Position the bush over the cone and spread the roots out in a natural growing position such that they are not crowded or twisted. Do not prune roots to fit the hole; it took years for the roots to develop so make the hole fit the bush. Adjust the height of the soil cone so that the bud union is approximately 2" above the soil level.

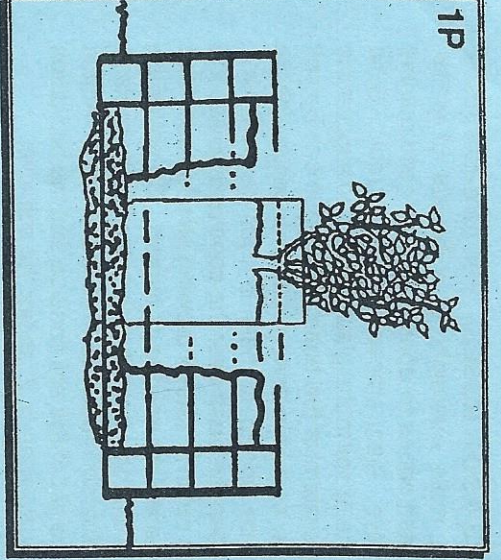
Just like planting a potted rose, use water to settle the soil. Gently fill the depression with water, using a dike to keep the water from running out of the bed. Fill the depression at least twice with water, adding soil as necessary. If the bush shifts position, adjust it back to where you want it by adding soil mix.

Level and firm the soil by hand so that the bud union is 2" above the soil level. Then mound up mulch, soil, compost or planting mix around and over the bud union and lower portion of canes (6" or more) to prevent them from drying out. Mounding also protects against frost or a late cold spell. When roots are established and leaves begin to appear (usually 2-3 weeks) gently wash away the material with a garden hose over several days.

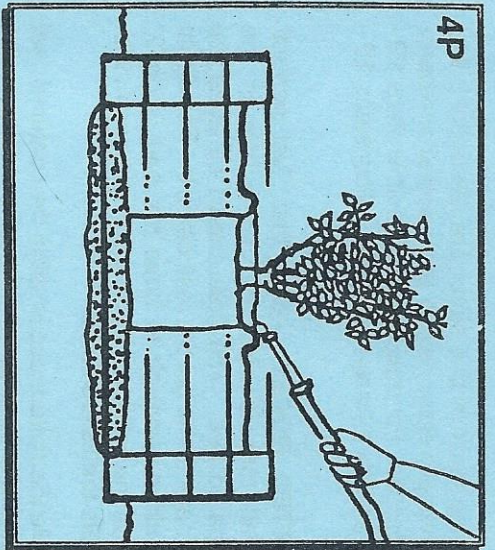
MULCH. After planting (and mounded soil is removed from bare-root plants) add a 3" layer of native hardwood mulch on top of the soil to dress the bed, retain moisture, deter weed development and insulate the roots of the plants.

WAIT TO FERTILIZE. Give new roots a chance to develop before starting any feeding program. Fertilizer is best applied to newly planted roses after the first blooms appear. Fertilizer applied at planting time can burn tender feeder roots.

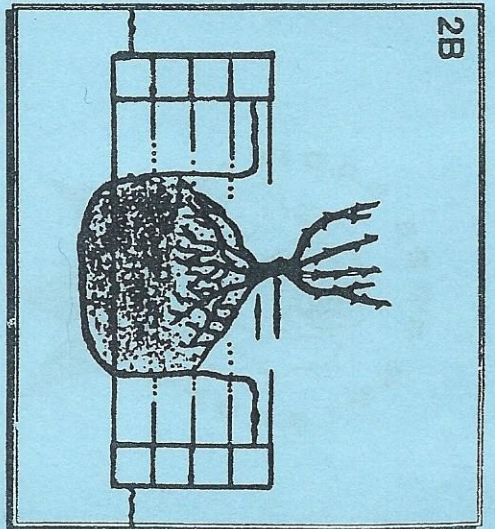
1P



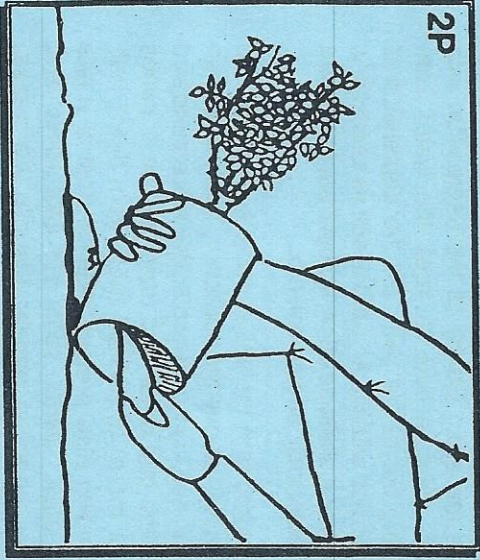
4P



2B



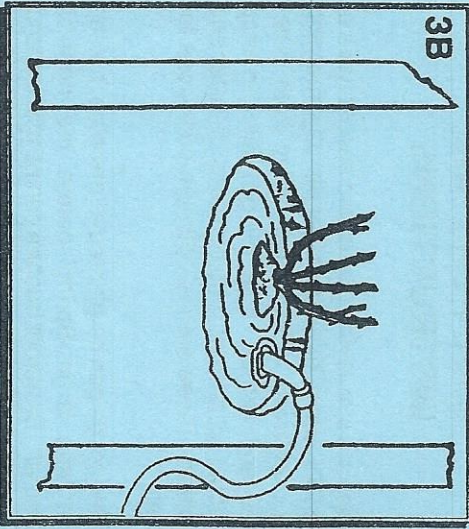
2P



Planting a Potted Rosebush

Follow steps 1P - 4P

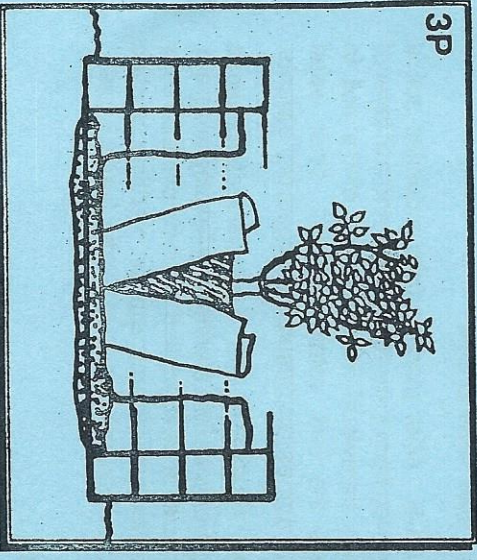
3B



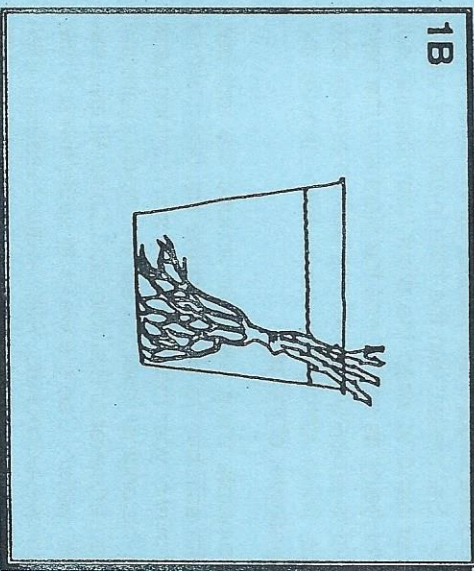
Planting a Bare Root Rosebush

Follow steps 1B - 4B

3P



1B



4B

