



SUGGESTIONS FOR GROWING ROSES

The Houston Rose Society, affiliated with The American Rose Society, was established to encourage and assist rose growing as a hobby. The Houston Rose Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month. Visit our website for information on the meeting location. Anyone interested in growing or showing roses as a hobby is invited to attend. There is no charge to attend the monthly meetings.

The Society publishes a monthly newsletter on rose culture, variety evaluations, new product introductions, rose care, rose problems and news of the activities and exhibits of the Society.

Membership in the Houston Rose Society is either \$20 per year (paper newsletter) and \$15 per year for electronic newsletter. For membership information contact any Consulting Rosarian listed, or send a check to:

Houston Rose Society
P. O. Box 22614

Houston, Texas 77227-2614

or join on our website,

www.houstonrose.org

LOCATION FOR PLANTING ROSES

Select a place where there will be direct sun for at least 6 hours, away from large trees or hedges. Morning sun with afternoon shade is preferable. Roses do best in full sun. Good air circulation is also important.

PREPARATION OF ROSE BEDS

Single rows of roses require beds at least 3 feet wide; double rows need 5 feet. For convenience, it is preferable to have no more than 2 rows. Allow at least 4 feet between beds.

Well-prepared beds pay big dividends in later rose enjoyment. Houston-area soil is primarily heavy black clay (gumbo) and is slightly alkaline. Roses prefer a slightly acid soil. **Rose beds should be elevated above yard level for good drainage.** An edging of bricks, landscape timbers, redwood or cedar lumber makes beds easier to maintain.

PLANTING MIXTURE

An ideal mixture consists of (by volume) 1/3 loam or garden soil, 1/3 sharp sand (not beach sand), and 1/3 organic matter (humus). For a rose bed of approximately 100 square feet, add 20 pounds of superphosphate (0-20-0) and 20 pounds of agricultural gypsum. Mix in well to a depth of about 10 inches. A Roto-Tiller makes the job easier. Allow new beds to settle and compost for a few weeks before planting. Good sources of organic material are leaf composts, composted manures, peat moss or a combination of these materials.

The HRS, in partnership with Nature's Way Resources, has created its own proprietary Rose Soil Blend. The Society's Rose Soil Blend is available under Nature's Way Resources label at many local nurseries, or directly through Nature's Way Resources.

PLANTING

Roses can be purchased growing in containers or as bare root plants. Bare root roses should be planted during January and February. Potted roses can be planted almost any time.

Select good quality rose bushes that have not dried out in storage or shipment. Dried out plants will not start or produce well. Store bare root roses in a cool place, and keep moist if they are not to be planted immediately.

Transplanting is best done in winter when bushes are dormant.

See HRS brochure, *Rose Planting Instructions*, for more information on how to correctly plant potted and bare root rose bushes.

WATERING

Roses in Houston require at least 1 inch of water each week. More is required during periods of hot, dry weather. Water thoroughly and deeply about twice each week. A slow soaking is best. Raised beds drain readily.

FEEDING

Roses are heavy feeders and thrive on regular, light feedings. Begin a feeding program when new growth begins in the spring and continue every 4 to 6 weeks during the growing season. Composted manure is good, and many commercial fertilizers do a good job. Special rose foods are also available, including the Society's own water-soluble fertilizer, HRS Rose Fertilizer, distributed by Nitro-Phos, Inc. Follow the directions carefully on any commercial fertilizer. **DO NOT overfeed.** Light regular feedings are the most effective. **WATER** thoroughly before and after feeding. Water is essential in the feeding process.

INSECT PROTECTION

Principal harmful insects are aphids and thrips. Aphids (plant lice) are sucking insects that damage new growth. Thrips bruise and discolor blooms, particularly lighter colors. Several insecticides provide effective, safe control. Orthene, Malathion, and products containing Neem Oil are popular in Houston. Follow product directions carefully. Use only when infestations are obvious. Spray only after rose beds have been thoroughly watered and spray only the target pest (not the entire bush) to avoid killing beneficial insects. Early morning or late evening spraying is best to avoid leaf burn.

Red spider mites sometimes occur during hot dry weather. These tiny insects multiply on the underside of leaves, resulting in loss of color and finally, loss of leaves. Infestation occurs on the lower leaves, gradually moving up the plant. The safest treatment is a strong water spray on the underside of leaves, washing away the insects and webbing. Washing the infested bushes with water every other day for a week will usually bring control.

DISEASE CONTROL

Blackspot fungus is the major enemy of roses. Black

spots appear on leaves, gradually spreading as leaves turn yellow and drop off. Blackspot greatly weakens the bush and retards growth. Blackspot can be prevented through regular use of a fungicide such as Triticonazole (Ortho Rose & Flower Care), Bayor Advanced Disease Control or Green Light's Rose Defense. Add Mancozeb to the preventative spray program as a contact killer. These products are readily available and easy to use.

Begin a preventative program when leaves first appear and continue every week during the growing season. Humid, warm weather encourages blackspot. Dry periods do not require as much control. Spray a fungicide on a regular schedule, wetting the leaves, top and bottom to keep roses healthy.

Preventative sprays keep bushes healthy and fungal diseases at bay. Preventative products will not cure the disease. If a rose exhibits symptoms of a fungal disease, a curative product (like Mancozeb) is necessary.

Powdery mildew most often occurs in early spring or late fall with cool nights and warm days. Mildew appears as a gray-white mold on new leaves and stems. It spreads rapidly if moist conditions persist. Ortho Rose Pride fungicide is a good preventative. If mildew appears, spray twice a week until control is established and new growth is free of disease.

Maintaining good air circulation around each rose bush (at least 1 to 2 feet between plants) can help reduce the incidence of fungal diseases.

PRUNING

Pruning old growth in the springtime encourages new growth and development. Cut out dead or non-productive wood flush with the bud union. Trim out twiggy growth. Always cut back to a new outwardly facing bud eye (about 1/4 inch above the leaf axil) to encourage new growth. Pruning maintains the size and shape of the bush.

Most roses are pruned during the month of February or soon thereafter. Repeat climbers should be pruned while dormant. Rambler and once-blooming climbers should be pruned AFTER flowering.

For more information about pruning roses, see the HRS Publication, *Fundamentals of Pruning Roses*.

HOUSTON AREA CONSULTING ROSARIANS

Consulting Rosarians are appointed by the American Rose Society for their knowledge of roses and ability to assist rose hobbyists. Call on them for help. There is no charge for this assistance.

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HOUSTON'S FAVORITES

These are some of Houston's favorite roses, selected by members of the Houston Rose Society. Both exhibition and garden roses are represented and all grow well in this area.

HYBRID TEA / GRANDIFLORA ROSES

Chrysler Imperial	dr	Marilyn Monroe	ab
Double Delight	rb	Mister Lincoln	dr
Elizabeth Taylor	dp	Moonstone	w
First Prize	pb	Queen Elizabeth	mp
Fragrant Cloud	or	St. Patrick	yb
Gemini	pb	Timeless	dp
Gold Medal	my	Touch of Class	pb
Just Joey	ab	Veterans' Honor	dr

FLORIBUNDA ROSES

Angel Face	mb	Playgirl	mp
Easy Does It	ab	Our Lady of	pb
Europeana	dr	Guadalupe	
Iceberg	w	Playgirl	mp
Julia Child	my	Sun Flare	my
Lava Flow	dr	Sunsprite	dy

MINIATURE / MINI-FLORA ROSES

Dr. Troy Garrett	mr	Peggy T	rb
Fairhope	y	Pierre	op
Glowing Amber	rb	Rainbow's End	yb
Hot Tamale	yb	Rise 'n' Shine	my
Incognito	m	Soroptimist Int'l	pb
Linville	w	Tiffany Lynn	pb

OLD GARDEN ROSES

Marchesa Boccolla	lp	Mutabilis	yb
Mrs. B. R. Cant	mp	Old Bush	mp
Sombreuil	w	Penelope	lp
Souv de la Malmaison	lp	Mrs. Dudley Cross	yb

FRAGRANT ROSES

Dolly Parton	or	Mister Lincoln	dr
Double Delight	rb	Oklahoma	dr
Fragrant Cloud	or	Sweetness	lav

DAVID AUSTIN ROSES / SHRUB ROSES

Abraham Darby	op	Graham Thomas	dy
Heritage	lp	Knock Out (s)	rb
L. D. Brailwaite	dr	Belinda's Dream (s)	mp

CLIMBERS

America	op	Don Juan	dr
New Dawn	lp	Fourth of July	rb
Climbing Pinkie	lp	Reve d'Or	dy