



# Roses



*Anna's Promise/Grandiflora*

## Telly's Rose Care Guide

Our goal is to offer a selection of roses that everyone, even the most casual gardener, can grow and enjoy.

### Planting your rose

In our northern climate it is recommended to plant the bud union 2-4 inches below the eventual soil level. The bud union is the large knob at the base of the upright canes. Using this method will assist in winter protection. Own root roses offer increased winter hardiness. They can be planted 2" deeper to assist in branching. \* (Tip: our own root rose selection will have green price labels.) Dig individual holes about 1 1/2 times the size of the potted plant. Cut the bottom of the container off with a blade knife, set the bottomless container in the hole. Slice the container on two opposite sides, add some of your amended soil, and simply pull the two remaining pieces of container out. Using this procedure rather than tipping your plant out of the container will reduce planting shock and keep your roots intact. (And save you from wrestling with thorns!) Work your remaining soil around the plant to eliminate any air pockets. It is helpful to create a well to aid in watering.

### Sun

Roses love sun! The more sun your roses receive the better they will grow and flower. A rose plant should receive a minimum of six hours of sunlight every day.

### Soil and Spacing

For maximum performance, roses require well-drained soil. Amending your existing soil is recommended. For superior results we recommend using Bio-tone Starter Plus (2 cups per plant) and Bumper Crop. Bumper Crop is an all-purpose organic soil builder. Spacing depends on the type of rose plant you have selected; usually it will be 30-36 inches apart. Most climbers and large shrubs will require 4-6 ft. Air circulation is important to aid in preventing disease.

### Watering

Watering is the lifeblood of healthy roses. Roses should receive the equivalent of 1 inch of rain a week. Newly planted roses should be monitored daily for the first few weeks. Overhead watering should only be done early in the day so the foliage will have time to dry before nightfall. A sprinkler system is not adequate for watering roses.

### Fertilizing

Roses are heavy feeders, a minimum schedule is to feed three times a year. In late spring, mid-summer after the first blooms have appeared, and finally late summer, about six weeks before the first frost is expected. We recommend using organic Espoma Rose-Tone or Holly-Tone. Your roses will enjoy an occasional water-soluble feeding in between granular feedings. Premium choices: Neptune's Harvest or Espoma Organic Bloom.

### Mulching

A 2-inch layer of organic mulch can be very beneficial for your roses. It will suppress weeds and keep the soil cool and moist. We recommend using Aged Pine Bark, which will also serve as an excellent soil amendment for your garden.

### Pruning

The three major objectives in pruning are to shape the plant, produce better blooms, and get rid of old, dead wood so the plant has an easier time regenerating itself. **When to prune-** Begin pruning your roses in spring while the plant is still dormant, before the leaves have begun to form. When you see the yellow forsythia shrub blooming, usually mid-April, that's Mother Nature cue to begin rose care.

**How to prune-** My motto is be fearless! Since a healthy rose can take some abuse, it will survive your pruning mistakes. You can prune your

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rose severely, moderately, or lightly, depending on the type of rose, and the type of blooms you would like to produce. Shrubs are generally reduced by 1/3-1/2. Moderate Pruning- (ex. Hybrid teas and Floribunda) generally leaving 5-12 canes 18-24 inches high. A much larger and better-shaped bush will develop. Moderate pruning is best suited for most gardens. Knowing the type of rose you are growing is important, as different varieties prefer specific pruning methods.

## Procedure for pruning

Step 1. Remove all dead wood down to the nearest healthy bud eye. Dead wood looks brown and lifeless on the outside, and is light brown and dry on the inside. Step 2. Remove any diseased weak, spindly canes down to healthy wood. Remove branches that are crossing one another. Step 3. Shape the remaining canes to get the shape and size you desire. \*Make cuts 1/2" above an outside facing bud eye, using bypass pruners.

Throughout the growing season you can continue to cut out weak, spindly shoots. Deadhead old blooms when they have passed their peak, cutting 1/4 inch above a five leaflet facing the outside.\* Some roses are self-cleaning, no need to dead head. Knock Out Roses are one ex. Stop dead- heading Labor Day, leaving the last wave of blooms on the plants.

## Disease and Insect Control

Prevention is the best method of control. Avoid watering the foliage in the evening. Keep the center of the plant open to allow for good air circulation. If you choose to spray your roses with fungicides, begin spraying as soon as leaves appear inspring, repeat every 10-14 days.\* Soil drench products are applied every 6 weeks. Apply the spray as a fine mist, to thoroughly wet the foliage, particularly the underside of leaves. Water your roses thoroughly 24 hours before applying fungicides. Read label directions carefully before use; do not exceed the recommended dosage.

## Winter Protection

Healthy roses are more likely to survive our winter conditions. Planting the bud union below the soil is very important. Tender roses will require additional winter protection. The most popular method of winter protection is to mound soil or other organic material around the crown of the plant 8-12 inches high, usually the end of November. \* Aged Pine Bark is an excellent choice. Fall pruning is not recommended!

Hardy shrubs and own root roses will survive winters **without** added protection. The most efficient winter protection is a thick blanket of snow.

## Recommended Products

### Disease Control

Mancozeb  
Infuse  
Bayer Advanced Disease Control  
\*Bonide Rose RX-soil drench  
\*NOT intended for use on roses grown in containers

### Fertilizers-organic

Rose -Tone  
Holly -Tone  
Neptune's Harvest  
Espoma Organic Bloom

### Insect Control-organic

Captain Jack's Spinosad  
Insecticidal Soap  
Neem Oil  
Hand picking, strong water blast (aphids)

### Soils and Amendments

Bio-tone Starter Plus  
Bumper Crop  
Aged Pine Bark (soil amendment/mulch)

Should you have further questions regarding selection and rose care, we invite you to stop in or call and chat with Susan our Rose Manager. (248) 689-8735.

Email: [Susan@tellys.com](mailto:Susan@tellys.com)

Rose Classes are held in March and April  
Information is posted on Tellys.com and Telly's Facebook page.