

## Contact details

### Pests and diseases

Roses tend to attract various insects and fungi. There are two schools of thought as to the spraying of roses. One is that roses should be sprayed according to a spray program, the other is that roses should only be sprayed when there is a problem that needs to be treated.

The most common problems are:

- Mildew and Blackspot - Treat these fungi with Margaret Roberts Organic Fungicide, Funginex, Rosecare 3, Fungi Gun or Bravo.
- Scale, Mealy bug, Australian bug and Aphid can be controlled with insecticides such as Margaret Roberts Organic Insecticide, Garden Gun or Malasol. Herbs like mint and pyrethrum will help keep the bugs away.
- Red spider is most prevalent during hot, dry weather. Treat it immediately with Spider-mite spray such as Ludwig's Rose Spider-mite. When watering, try to spray the under-sides of the leaves to deter these bugs.
- Chafer beetles eat the leaves of roses. (September is when the beetles become active). When small numbers are present, hand pick to remove. Put them into soapy water to kill them.

For details and further information, visit GardenShop's friendly Information Centre at any of our branches or call our Contact Centre on 0861 G-A-R-D-E-N (427336). Alternatively, e-mail us at [info@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info@gardenshop.co.za) or log on to [gardenshop.co.za](http://gardenshop.co.za).

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#### GardenShop Edenvale

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## Roses

GardenShop's guide to the planting and care of Roses

## Positioning of Roses

Roses have a variety of uses and there will always be the perfect rose to fill that special spot. Roses are available in bushes, climbers, standards, groundcovers, English and miniatures. They need full sun – at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. As well as growing out in the garden, they can also be grown in containers. They require a well-drained soil that has been enriched with compost.

## Planting

Dig a good size hole (50cm x 50cm x 50cm). Place the excavated soil to one side. To this add ½ a bag of compost, a good handful of Bonemeal or Superphosphate to the soil. Mix this in well and shovel about half of this back into the hole. Place the rose into the hole and check the soil level. Add or remove soil as necessary. Remove the bag from the plant and place the rose gently into the hole. Add the rest of the soil and firm down the soil around the bush. Water well. A tip to help plants settle is to make sure that they are watered about an hour before they are planted out.

## Mulching

Mulching is an essential part of rose growing. Mulching helps to keep the roots cool in the summer months and warm in the winter months. It will also help to control weeds. Instant mulch is available in bags from GardenShop. You can also use lawn clippings, bark, leaves, pine needles etc. If you are using material that is not yet decomposed, it is best to add a little LAN to the soil, this compensates for nitrogen lost during decomposition.

## Watering

Roses are waterholics and will suffer from withdrawal symptoms if they are deprived of sufficient water. A rule of thumb is to give a good, deep soaking at least once a week in the summer months supplemented by a light watering twice a week. The more you water roses in the growing period, the longer the stems will be. In winter, the ideal would be to give the roses a good long soaking only once a week. This is just a guideline, but will differ from garden to garden depending on the soil type, climate and position of the roses. Deep watering is preferable to shallow watering as it encourages strong, deep roots.

## Fertilising

Roses will benefit from extra nutrition by growing taller and stronger and producing more blooms. Start feeding in July or early August once you have pruned the roses. The first feed should be approximately a handful (50 grams) of 5:1:5 or 3:1:5 fertiliser. Feed again with the same approximately 6 weeks later as the new buds are forming. Roses should now be fed every month with 3:1:5 or 5:1:5 until the end of April. You can also alternate every second feeding by using 3:1:5 and a foliar feed like Multifeed. Multifeed contains micronutrients that are not found in the granular fertilisers.

If the leaf develops yellow veins or yellowing between the veins, it is more than likely a nutrient deficiency. Correct these imbalances as soon as they become apparent.

## Pruning

Roses need only a light pruning in summer (December/January) and a heavy pruning in winter months. After pruning, spray with Lime Sulphur, which kills all insects and fungi around the plants. For tips on pruning visit GardenShop's Information Centre. In order for your rose to continue producing flowers, remove spent blooms and rose hips that have formed.

**For more information, visit any of our Info centres or email us at [info@gardenshop.co.za](mailto:info@gardenshop.co.za)**