



Because Life Should Be Beautiful™

Bonnie's Guide to Growing and Caring for Roses

This care sheet is specific to the Bay Area. There are, however, some climatic variations within our own area to consider. West of the hills and anywhere along the water, temperatures will be very mild and humid, which means you should select roses that are fairly mildew resistant and have a petal count on the low side (20-30) so that the flowers will open. Roses grown in the hotter inland areas can have a higher petal count (30 and above) and the disease resistance factor is less of a concern. Climatic variations aside, here are some general guidelines for growing roses:

1. SUN- 4-5 hours minimum. Just remember, afternoon sun is hotter than morning sun and Danville sun is hotter than Oakland sun. Roses won't need as many hours where the sun is hotter.

2. WATER- All roses need regular watering, deep watering. How often depends on temperature, soil and wind. It is necessary to water more often in Alameda's sandy soil than in Walnut Creek's adobe. Roses on a windy hill need more frequent water than roses in a sheltered site. All roses need to be watered more often when temperatures are high. In general, established roses (planted at least a year) require water 1-3 times weekly during the growing season. Applying 2-3 gallons each time you water will ensure deep watering. **Roses grown in containers need water more frequently.**

3. FERTILIZER- All roses perform better with a regular fertilizer program. Having stated that, I am now going to hedge on what to use. Any balanced fertilizer labeled for blooming plants, such as **Master Nursery Rose & Flower Food** or **Garden Elements Rose & Flower Food** will work as long as it is applied as directed on the package (typically every 4-6 weeks). For the advanced grower, I have included a well-respected recipe which only needs to be applied twice during the growing season. If you prefer to grow your roses organically, try our organic alternative rose food recipe. (See reverse side)

4. MULCH- All roses love an organic mulch applied around their roots. **Black Forest Organic Compost, Paydirt** or **Gold Rush** are all good to use as a mulch. Mulching does several things. It acts as an insulator keeping the soil cool and the moisture in. It acts as a weed control and the few weeds that do manage to grow through are easier to pull out. Most importantly, it improves the soil over time. Spread mulch around the plant about 2" deep, being sure to keep the main stem free of mulch and exposed to the air. To encourage early bloom, delay mulching until after the soil has been warmed by spring temperatures.

5. PESTS- All roses get pests and diseases. However, there are a lot of solutions to choose from in order to control these problems and leave you with beautiful flowers. If you choose not to use chemicals to control pests, there are cultural practices and non-chemical means available. However, if you want perfect exhibition roses, protecting them with horticultural chemicals may be your best choice.

A NOTE ON PLANTING ROSES PURCHASED FROM ORCHARD

When you purchase a rose at Orchard Nursery it will be in a paper pot. This enables you to plant your rose at any time. To plant your rose, dig a hole twice as wide as the pot and half again as deep. Amend the soil you have dug out by adding **Paydirt** or **Gold Rush** to make a 50/50 mixture. Make four slits in the sides of the paper pot. Add **Master Start** or **Garden Elements Organic Starter Food**, and enough of the soil mix back into the hole so that the soil level of the rose is even with your garden soil when the paper pot is placed in the hole. Tuck remaining soil mixture around the sides of the pot, tamping it tightly in place. The lip of the paper pot will be protruding above the soil. This may be left to form a watering basin for the first year or it can be cut off. Mulch as directed in step 4 above, and water your newly planted rose thoroughly.

PEST	CULTURAL CONTROLS	SOLUTIONS
Aphids	Rub off, hose off, aphid traps and beneficial insects.	Take Down Garden Spray Insecticidal Soap PestFighter Year-Round Spray Oil
Beetles	Hand pick, water traps	Captain Jack's Deadbug Eight Insect Control Take Down Garden Spray
Spider Mites	Hose off undersides of foliage often	Neem Oil Captain Jack's Deadbug Insecticidal Soap
Thrips	Hose off undersides of foliage often	Captain Jack's Deadbug Insecticidal Soap PestFighter Year-Round Spray Oil
Powdery Mildew, Rust and Black Spot	Remove and dispose of severely affected leaves; Water mid-morning so leaves dry quickly; Prune to increase air circulation.	Bonide Copper Fungicide Neem Oil Serenade Infuse

Rose Feeding Recipes

The Traditional Fertilizer Program

Applied only twice a year!

In February and again in August. The amount given is for 1 rose. You can proportionately mix a larger amount of the ingredients in a wheelbarrow and apply at a rate of 1 ½ cups per rose.

16-16-16 ----- ½ cup

Bone Meal ----- ½ cup

*FST, Iron Sulfate or Iron Plus----- ½ cup

Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom Salts) ---2 Tbs

Sprinkle these four ingredients around each rose and mix into soil as well as possible. Then spread 1 shovelful of **Chicken Manure** around each rose and water in.

For roses in containers, use ½ the amounts listed and add a 3rd fertilizing in May.

*Note: Products containing Iron can stain—be sure to wash off adjacent paving after application. Iron Plus is considered a non-staining iron.

The Organic Fertilizer Program

Spring: Late February-Early March

Alfalfa Meal-----2 cups

G.E. Organic Rose Food-----2 cups

The amounts given are for 1 rose.

Spread under the established rose from the trunk to about 2-3 feet out, then apply 2-3 inches of organic compost (**Paydirt**) as mulch on top of the fertilizer. Water in thoroughly.

Summer: Late July-Early August

G.E. Organic Rose Food-----2 cups

Spread under the established rose from the trunk to about 2-3 feet out (same as above). Then work fertilizer into the top 2 inches of soil and water in thoroughly.

Container Plantings

For roses in containers, use ½ the amounts listed for spring application and add a 3rd fertilizing in May.

