

“There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence.” ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

the transplanting period. Container grown roses are purchased with fully developed foliage, so they are easier to keep healthy if you don't intend to plant them immediately. Although some bushes may already have flowers, the blooms actually work against planting because the plant's energy is directed towards sustaining the flower instead of root development.

SOIL

Preparing soil for roses is an important element in cultivating your plants. Nutrient rich soil acts as a solid foundation for your rose bushes. Before planting, mix soil with organic matter such as yard clippings or compost. Soil should also be aerated or tilled to improve drainage and encourage root growth.

WATERING

Recently planted roses should be watered at least twice a week until roots are established in the ground. Be careful not to overwater; as too much moisture can cause rotting and damage your plant. After your rose

bush has taken to the soil, watering can be reduced to once a week. Plants that are well-hydrated have a greater chance of fighting off diseases and pests. Roses should be watered before adding fertilizer or treating the soil.

PRUNING

Pruning your roses is crucial to maintaining a healthy plant. By removing dead foliage and branches, your plant will produce bigger blooms and stronger stems. Pruning removes any dead, diseased, or damaged branches, and leaves a healthy existing plant structure. Eliminating inner branches, or canes, at the center of your rose bush helps increase airflow, which also lowers the risk for fungus and mildew to build up inside the plant.

1. Old Garden roses are ideal climbers and range from light pink to deep pinkish-red. **2.** Hybrid Tea are roses packed with a strong fragrance. **3.** Beautiful array of roses in the Flora Garden Society Rose Garden.

Below: Centifolia roses are wonderfully fragrant with large blooms.

