

Ten Tips for Growing Beautiful Roses

- 1.** Roses need and absorb a good deal of nutrients, and fertilizing your plant will help ensure your plant reaches its full potential. During the growing season, roses should be fertilized every four to six weeks.
- 2.** Plant roses in an area that receives full sunlight. Roses need at least six hours of direct sun per day, and will not grow well in areas with too much shade.
- 3.** If possible, avoid planting rose bushes near trees or shrubs. Larger plants will compete for nutrients and moisture, which can hinder growth.
- 4.** Before planting your rose bush, prep soil by mixing in organic compost. Your roses will thrive on the nutrients.
- 5.** Deadheading encourages air circulation and will also help your plant produce more blooms. By removing old or dead flowers, you also eliminate hiding spots for pests.
- 6.** Container roses should be watered thoroughly the day before planting. The roots of bare root roses should be fully soaked in water an hour before planting in soil.
- 7.** Once roses are ready to be planted, dig a hole about 15 inches deep and 19 inches wide. Fill the bottom part of the hole with prepared soil. Place the root ball in the hole and fill in with soil. If you live in a warm climate, the graft, or slightly raised mound on the on the stem, should be planted above the ground. If you live in a cooler climate, the graft should be planted an inch or two below the soil line.
- 8.** Thoroughly water the soil to keep the area moist, but not soaking, until root systems are fully developed in the ground. You should avoid watering roses directly overhead, as doing so may encourage disease problems. It is best to water at the base of the plant.
- 9.** Mulching around the area will encourage a healthy plant. Mulching adds to the organic matter content of the soil, helps to regulate soil temperature, and also suppresses pesky weeds.
- 10.** To cut roses, leave at least two leaves between the cut and the main stem of the rose bush.

