



## CARING FOR YOUR ROSES

### WINTER BARE ROOT ROSES

When you receive your new roses from The Flower Garden during the winter, they will be in a plastic bag or pot filled with a moist composted soil improver mix. This mixture can be dug into your soil at planting time and will add valuable organic matter to your soil. If you are unable to plant immediately, your roses are OK stored in these containers for 1 or 2 weeks, but always try to plant as soon as possible. The roots of the rose should never dry out.

If you have received bare root roses from us via Courier or Post they will be packaged differently. The roots will be wrapped in damp newspaper and surrounded in plastic. Upon receiving your roses, they should be unpacked and the roots submerged in a bucket of water for about one hour and either planted immediately or heeled in (temporarily planted all together in one hole in the garden and watered in well). They should be planted in the garden as soon as possible. The roots of the Rose should never dry out.

### SITE & SOIL

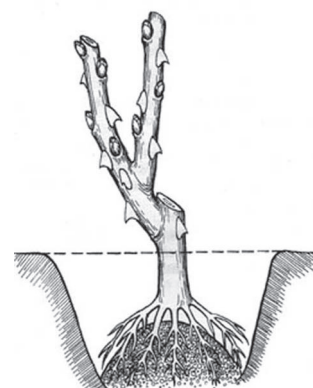
Roses prefer an open, sunny position with some protection from strong winds. Roses need at least 6 hours of sun to perform well. Avoid planting near large trees and shrubs as they will rob the soil of nutrients and moisture resulting in poor rose growth. It is important that your soil has had well rotted compost mixed through at least 2 months before planting your bare root roses. This helps to hold moisture in the soil.

### PLANTING YOUR BARE ROOT ROSE

Soak the roots of your bare root Rose in water before planting. They should not be dry. Shorten the rose branches back by about 1/3 to 1/2, depending on the length. This will stimulate fresh new growth from lower on the plant to produce a bushy rose.

To plant your bareroot Roses in the chosen site, dig a large hole deep enough and wide enough to accommodate the roots which should be spread out as evenly as possible. Place it on a slight mound in the bottom of the hole so that the roots can spread out and down. The Rose should be positioned in the hole so that the bud union is about 1" or 2.5cm above ground level. (see diagram)

Backfill with the soil, firm around the plant. Make a slight well and fill with water. When the water has drained away, add more soil and level. Do not add any fertiliser when planting as it may will burn the roots and may kill the plant or hinder its development in the Spring. Make sure the soil around your bare root Rose stays moist. Even through winter it may need watering by hand to ensure the plant grows away well in the Spring.



### BARE ROOT STANDARD ROSES

If planting a bare root standard Rose, the ground level should be about 10cm up the stem. It should be supported with a sturdy wooden stake driven into the ground about 60cm or 2'. This should be positioned in the ground before the Rose so as not to damage the roots. The stake should extend up into the branches slightly. Water in the standard Rose before tying to the stake to allow the Rose to settle in. Use a flexible tie (available from the nursery) near the base, in the middle of the stem and at the top, tying in between the bud unions. Make sure the soil around your bareroot Rose stays moist. Even through winter it may need watering by hand to ensure the plant grows away well in the Spring.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ANY MORE ADVICE ON GROWING YOUR ROSES,  
PLEASE RING US AT THE FLOWER GARDEN 08/83886126

## LOOKING AFTER YOUR ESTABLISHED ROSES

### FERTILISING

Once the Roses are established by the Spring, they can have a light application of fertiliser. Use a Complete D combined with an organic fertiliser. Apply to moist soil and water in after. This can be repeated in early Autumn. Over fertilising with fertiliser high in nitrogen, will encourage leaf growth and discourage flower development.

### WATERING

With water restrictions in place, we must learn to be more efficient with water. Once established, roses do not require a large amount of water. It is important though, that your soil has had well rotted compost mixed through at least 2 months before planting your bare root roses. This helps to hold moisture in the soil and a good layer of mulch is applied in Spring. Watering needs for Roses will depend on your site, soil composition and the weather. As a general rule, we suggest deep soakings every 5-7 days. This encourages the root system to grow down into the soil, away from the surface. Short watering daily will encourage the roots to stay near the surface, as the surface soil is the only area that is moistened. The trouble with that is, when the weather really heats up in the summer, it is the first few inches of soil that heats up, which, in turn, stresses the roots and therefore the plant. Your Rose could be growing away quite well while the weather is mild, then suddenly die or look sick. This is because of the watering technique.

Water Restrictions: Each state will have a different level of restrictions in place

### MULCH

Mulching is an important factor in helping to conserve water. It helps the soil retain the moisture by protecting it from the heat of the day. It also breaks down over time to improve the soil and encourage worms and beneficial bacteria.

Your garden beds should be mulched each year in September (about 75mm deep) with pea straw, lucerne hay etc., making sure you leave a small space around the stem of the rose. It really will make a big difference to your garden and also helps control weeds, as the use of Round-up or other weedacides can kill your Rose.

### DEAD HEADING

To encourage your Rose to flower more often, regular dead heading is needed. This enables the plant to produce flowers more frequently.

### PRUNING

All repeat flowering Roses are pruned in Winter. Remove any diseased and dead wood, any old canes which have produced twiggy, weak growth and canes which are crossing into the centre and causing crowding. Only promote the stronger and younger canes. Shorten the remaining canes by about 1/3 to a healthy outward pointing bud. These same principles also apply to standard Roses. Your standard Roses may need restaking and retying each year. Make sure the stake is still firm and straight and that the tie is firm, but not cutting into the stem. Use a flexible tie to allow for growth.

Clean up around the area, removing all leaves and debris.

Spray with Copper Oxychloride and Winter Oil, giving pruned plants a thorough wetting. Always read directions on chemical packets and take suggested safety precautions.

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