

Replacing a rose

Remove the old plant with as many roots as possible, plus an extra 2 buckets of soil. Replace with fresh garden soil from an area free of roses. The old soil can still be used elsewhere in the garden. Often called 'rose sick soil', the new rose will not tolerate any old rose roots remaining in its root zone. The new rose will not die, but will not thrive for many months. Plant a new rose into this fresh soil in the usual way.

Replacing an old rose garden

If many roses are to be replaced, dig out the old roses at least 6 months beforehand. Add to the new area some animal manure, compost or new soil, all dug to a fork depth. Water in well and let the soil rest. Turn the soil over once more nearer to planting time. The soil will be well prepared for new plants. Annuals or vegetables can be planted in the meantime.

Pruning

Pruning is best done in July (or August in frost areas).

1. Cut back bush by half or two thirds of its height.
2. Remove all dead wood or old canes which have not produced good growth in the past season.
3. Also remove twiggy growth thinner than a pencil or smaller. Thin out crowded branches.
4. After pruning, spray with Pest Oil, Winter Oil or Copper Oxychloride to combat overwintering fungal spores (Blackspot, mildew or rust).

- Prune standards (stem roses) by following the above procedure, creating a ball shape effect.

- Climbers – do not remove the new long climbing canes as these will produce next season's flowers. Tie canes into position over the arch, or fan out along the fence. Occasionally remove an entire cane if a new cane can fill that space. Old canes remaining should have lateral growth spurred.

Several rose pruning demonstrations are given by members of the Rose Society in June and July.

Types of roses

Hybrid Tea Roses

Large flowers borne singly, or several to a stem. They are the most commonly grown roses. Height 1.5m to 2.0m, and up to 1.5m width.

Floribunda or Cluster Flowered Roses

Small to medium size blooms come in clusters; are usually very colourful and ideal for massed planting effect. Good for a hedge row 1m to 2m tall and 1m width.

Standard or Stem Roses

Hybrid Tea, Floribundas, Shrubs or Miniatures are budded onto a single stem of a standard height, ie: 75cm to 90cm tall. The rose grows to its usual height as a bush on top of the stem. Gives height to a garden and allows under-planting.

Climbing, Rambling and Pillar Roses

Producing long climbing canes which are supported on a frame as a screening plant, on a single post as a pillar, or over an arch. Of various sizes to suit wide uses in a garden.

Ramblers are usually only spring flowering. Most climbers repeat their flowers from spring to late autumn.

Weeping Standards

Budded onto 1.5m to 2m tall stems, flowering canes cascade downwards. Best grown as a specimen plant.

Miniature Roses

Roses in miniature, small flowers on a very low bush. Suitable for pot plants.

Shrub Roses

Large bushes, often tall and spreading with many branching canes of a lax arching habit.

Ground Covers

Low spreading plants to 50cm in height. Small flowers in profusion.

Heritage and Species Roses

A wide collection of historic and very old rose types, usually only spring flowering but very beautiful. Species are the original old roses, which often have decorative seedpods known as hips.

THE ROSE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE
AND INNOVATION IN THE
PROMOTION OF THE ROSE

ROSE GROWING GUIDE



Essentials of rose growing

The Rose Bed

Roses like full sun with at least 5 to 6 hours of direct sunlight each day. Avoid root competition from nearby trees and shrubs.

Soil must be well drained, preferably neutral and containing copious quantities of organic matter.

If soil is alkaline (limestone) and clay in nature, gypsum, compost, fertiliser and/or mulch should be worked into the bed to improve the soil.

Rose Bed Preparation

At least 8 weeks before planting, dig over to a spade depth (25cm) incorporating generous amounts of compost, well-rotted manure or other organic matter. Dig over again 4 weeks later, and leave for a further 4 weeks. We recommend Neutrog's **Seamungus** as part of the bed preparation.

Planting winter bare rooted roses

This is best done in June or July. Mark out the sites with pegs, allowing ample space around each rose. Labels indicate width and height. To allow easier access, rose beds should be no more than 2 rows deep.

Remove the plant from the plastic bag. Place plant in a bucket of water for 1 hour or more to thoroughly wet the roots in case they have dried out in the wrapping. Dig a hole 30cm square by a spade depth. For feeding, apply Neutrog's **Seamungus** in the bottom of the hole and cover with soil.

Having removed or trimmed the broken or damaged roots, place a slight mound of soil at the base of the hole, and position the roots over the soil mound with the bud union (kink in the stem where the branches emerge) to finish at soil level.

Back fill with soil to fill half the hole, fill hole with water. When water has drained away, back fill with soil to fill the hole and rake level.

Watering

Water established roses with a slow, deep soak to encourage a strong root system. Drip irrigation is the most efficient method. If very hot weather, water every 7 to 10 days; mature roses can tolerate once every 14 days.

Mulching

Mulching will improve growth by conserving water, keeping roots cool and restricting weed growth. Use anything readily available – lucerne, hay, pea or bean straw, leaves, forest mulch, green waste or similar.

Water Shoots

This is the soft growth that comes from the bud union or just above. When the flower buds appear, to prevent the branch from being torn out by the wind or the weight of the flower, you may need to tie it to a temporary stake. These new branches are vital to the future of the plant.

Suckers

Suckers are growths from the rootstock of the plant and shoot from below the bud union (under the soil).

Trace them down, clear the soil to expose where they are coming from, and remove completely. Use a gloved hand and wrench off with a 'heel' of bark if possible, or cut away with a sharp blade. Never cut off at ground level as this stimulates new growth of suckers from a multiple of dormant buds.

Removing Old Flowers

To maintain continuity of flowering, remove dead flowers and hips (seedpods) with a short stem as if picking a bunch of flowers. New shoots will emerge from beneath the cut to produce further flowers.

Fertilising

Fertiliser is best applied twice over a 12 month period - early September and February in heavy soil, and four times a year in September, November, February and April in sandy soils. Water the bed first, apply fertiliser, then water again in well to soak fertiliser into the soil. Neutrog's **Sudden Impact for Roses** is recommended as it contains all of the necessary nutrients to promote healthy growth and plenty of flowers.

Pests & diseases

Aphids

Aphids are small green-brown sap sucking insects on the growing shoots. Small numbers can be hosed off with a water jet. Natural predators are ladybirds, hoverflies, parasitic wasp and birds. If in plague proportions, spray with 'Eco-Oil', 'Pest Oil' or soapy water. Using insecticide will kill the predators also.

Two Spotted Mite

These thrive in hot, dry, dusty conditions along paving, paths, gravel or reflective heat from fences or walls. They are the tiniest mites found on underside of leaves which cause them to become dry and dusty, often causing the leaves to drop. A fine dusty web can be seen among the branches in a severe infestation. A simple remedy is to hose water through the foliage, particularly the underside of leaves. Do this each morning for 3 or 4 days to change the dry conditions. Mulch under the bushes and wet this also. Pest oil sprayed to wet the underside of the leaves is also effective.

Caterpillars

Caterpillars are not a large problem, but if the leaves or flowers are chewed a safe spray to use is 'Success' or 'Dipel' – a 'bacteria' to kill only caterpillars.

Fungal problems

Mildew is a white powder on shoots. Control with milk spray once a week – one part milk to 10 parts water. **Blackspot** on leaves, which turn yellow and drop off, and **Rust**, rusty pustules or powder on the underside of leaves are other fungal problems. All are a result of high humidity in early spring and late autumn. Milk spray, 'EcoRose' fungicide or soapy water may help. For long term prevention spray with 'Mancozeb Plus' and/or 'Trioferine' (only use this spray 2 or 3 times a year).

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