

PENINSULA ROSE SOCIETY

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ROSE CARE THROUGH THE YEAR

JANUARY

- Prune modern roses to an outside bud eye, down to about 1/3-1/2 of original height, leaving 3-6 main, healthy canes. Remove all debris from under bushes, and dormant spray canes and soil under plants. Do not *home* compost pruning material – put in city “green bins”. Shape climbers and large shrubs and remove dead, diseased canes. Cool composting does not kill spores.
- Plant bare-root roses over soil cone in large hole filled with soil well mixed with composted acceptable soil amendment. Soak bareroot in water,(optional B1) overnight first, trim roots if damaged.) Mycorrhizal optional. Crown of rose (where rose is grafted to rootstock) should be 2” above soil level. Gently tamp down soil and water well, *keep moist*. Mulch extra if it is dry

FEBRUARY

- Through March, continue planting new roses (now sold in containers). Remove container gently to avoid disturbing soil around new roots. Slit peat/fiber pots. Keep well-watered.

MARCH

- Good time to add 2-3” of mulch (shredded redwood or fir bark, arbor mulch, mushroom compost, etc.). Mulch retains moisture, enriches the soil and keeps weeds down.
- Start a fertilizing program. Add time-release fertilizer and/ or organics. Add well-balanced fertilizer: Add organic fertilizer - granular (sprinkle around bush, work in and water in well); or soluble (dilute in water and apply to bush, 1-2 gallons per bush). Alfalfa pellets without Molasses are inexpensive and great for plants. Apply per instructions on the package or work in alfalfa pellets several inches deep. Make sure the plant is watered the day before applying fertilizer to avoid root burn.

APRIL

- Fertilize after first bloom
- If no rain, commence regular watering. Roses do best and use least water by deep watering infrequently, as opposed to light watering more often. Give 5 to 7 gallons per week per bush planted in the ground, and more often for large plants in containers.

MAY

- Fertilize after first bloom
- Spray only as needed, practice integrated pest management. Use organics/ low toxicity
- Organic sprays include Neem oil or Bicarb, old fashioned fungicide (Potassium bicarbonate). Measure carefully, use a pump sprayer with curved wand for maximum coverage on both sides of the leaves. Wear chemical-proof gloves, goggles, long pants hat, and long sleeves for safety. Spray only as needed

- If done regularly, a non-chemical or low toxicity spraying program is also quite satisfactory. Water blast for aphids and mites Spray early to avoid bees.

JUNE

- Fertilize after second bloom, deadhead/ remove spent blooms
- Spray only as needed and with organics/ low toxicity, practice integrated pest management

JULY

- Spray only as needed and with organics/ low toxicity, practice integrated pest management
- Deadhead
- Watch for spider mites as hotter weather arrives. Spider mites are on the underside of leaves and looks like a sprinkling of salt and pepper, with some webbing in the advanced stages. Leaves look “gray” and underfed; leaves drop. Spraying the underside of leaves with a high-pressure water works fine, twice weekly if possibly. A good fogging nozzle works well (Fogg-It – 2-4 GPM), This also works for aphids early in the year

AUGUST

- Fertilize after third bloom
- Spray only as needed and with organics/ low toxicity, practice integrated pest management
- Deadhead
- Good time to replenish mulch: 2 to 3” arbor mulch, well-composted redwood or fir bark, etc.

SEPTEMBER

- Last month to fertilize, stop deadheading (cut off dead blooms) after this month.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER

- Cut final blooms to enjoy. Pull off spent petals on most by hand after bloom and let the plants make hips, but don’t deadhead (cut off spent blooms) or fertilize. This promotes dormancy. Decrease watering as rain starts. Plan new rose additions for next year. Order bare root. Good time to take cuttings for propagation. Plan new rose plantings, dig holes , remove poor performing roses (aka shovel prune) .

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