

Wallsend Nurseries

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Roses can flower for up to nine months of the year, and they live to a ripe old age! They are among the most popular plants grown anywhere in the world and are will reward you with beautiful flowers over a long period if you follow a few simple steps.

Roses DO NOT like competition from other shrubs or trees. They are best underplanted with annuals and bulbs for colour and contrast as these require similar conditions and feeding regimes.

LIGHT:

It is most important that your roses get a minimum of five to six hours of full sun each day, more if possible. They really need the sun to keep them healthy and flowering properly.

FEEDING:

Roses are hungry plants. We suggest feeding with Organic Life® or Sudden Impact® at 6 to 8 weekly intervals during the growing season.

WATERING:

Roses require good regular deep watering - NOT the occasional light sprinkling! Preferably water in the morning to reduce the risk of fungal disease and flower damage and avoid wetting the foliage.

MULCHING:

Roses will benefit from a surface mulch. It helps inhibit weed growth, keeps in moisture, and if a mulch of sugar cane is used it adds nitrogen to the soil and promotes worm activity as it breaks down. Old manures also make a great mulch. Cow or poultry is best. Make sure the mulch is around 50mm thick and not built up around the stem as this can cause collar rot.

PRUNING:

It's easy ! Don't be afraid or put off. If you make a mistake, so what ! it doesn't matter. Roses are very forgiving plants. Prune in late July/early August, and again (less severely) in Jan/Feb.

Use clean secateurs and a small saw for the very thick old wood. Clean off cutting implements with Dettol® or bleach between each rose bush to help prevent spread of disease.

It's just a matter of removing any dead or diseased wood from the plants. Remove any crossed over stems as well. The idea is to try and create an open "vase shaped" bush so that there will be good air circulation in the centre of the plant. This helps control fungal diseases

SPRAYING:

Roses suffer from a few pests and diseases. These are relatively easy to control if noticed early.

- Spray your dormant roses with Lime Sulphur® to control scales and overwintering fungal disease spores.
- Watch for aphids, thrips and caterpillars during the growing season. These are easily controlled using Rogor® or Matathon. Confidor is particularly good on aphids and thrips but won't control caterpillars.
- During the growing season use Rose Shield®, as a good allround protective spray. It controls most fungi and insect pests all in the one application.
- Red spider mite can occasionally be a problem and can be treated with Kelthane® or Rogor® if noticed.