

General advice on bare root rose trees

Getting ready to plant

Roses love clay soil, enjoy a loam soil, thrive in sandy soil but don't like chalky soil. The ground should be well prepared before planting your rose tree. Like most fruit plants a well balanced soil of 6.5ph is ideal but if your soil is poor quality you can add either lime to reduce the ph level or horse manure to increase the ph level.

If you cannot plant your bare root tree when you receive it due to weather conditions such as frost, you can 'heel in' the tree in the ground and cover it with a tarpaulin sheet or some other product the frost will not penetrate.

How to plant my roses

Dig the hole wide enough to allow the roots to be spread out and deep enough so that the base of the stems are just covered. If required, the addition of a proprietary rose food into the base of the hole, should be done now. Once you have placed the rose tree into the prepared hole before you start to backfill add the rootgrow product to the roots. Continue to backfill the hole compressing the soil as you go,

The base of the stems should be just below the soil level. Add a good layer of mulch. This will keep the soil moist in warm weather but will also suppress weeds. By keeping weeds to a minimum diseases such as black spot or rust can be suppressed.

What shall I feed them with?

This is a very simple process. You can use a liquid, that is available either concentrated or sometimes diluted, which is sprayed directly into the leaves of the rose, resulting in stronger leaves and greater disease resistance. Another method is granule feeding. This is sprinkled and mixed into the soil around a rose, then the nutrients are taken down through watering over a longer period of time.

Roses should be fed at the beginning of the season, when they start growing again, then every two to three weeks to ensure flowering well into the autumn months.

Never feed roses in autumn, as this promotes new softer growth, which will only be killed by the first frosts.

Around the rose tree

Use a good mulch, but before applying the mulch make sure the ground is clear of diseased and old leaves and you have fed and watered your roses. Spread a layer of mulch around the roses to a depth of 2-3ins. This is traditionally done in the spring, but you should keep on top of this during the growing season. A final mulch at the end of September is a good idea as this will assist the ground for the winter months ahead

How to Prune ?

Bush and shrub roses should be pruned down in the spring to half their height. Once your roses have finished flowering the spent blooms should be removed. If you dead head regularly the bush will continue to grow flowering shoots ensuring a good show of blooms well into late summer, and sometimes through the autumn, depending on the variety.

Some common pests and diseases on roses

APHIDS (Greenfly) are the most common. Spray with a contact insecticide which will kill any aphids it touches. It is a good idea to spray Roses on a regular basis with a systemic spray. This should protect it from aphids and many other pests. There are many proprietary brands of spray on the market.

BLACK SPOT, MILDEW and RUST . Start spraying your roses with a systemic spray early in the season once the new young leaves have appeared. It should be continued on a regular basis throughout the season, which should help with avoiding many of the common rose problems. If you already have a bad case of black spot, remove all the infected leaves and spray once a week for a few weeks with a propriety brand , this should eradicate the problem.

Looking after you rose will produce a good healthy plant which will give beautiful blooms.