

Cankers - Cankers are also caused by fungus. The fungus infects rose canes through wounds (usually caused by pruning). Small yellow to red spots appear on canes, then become enlarged. These spots develop a tan center with darker-brown or reddish-brown or purple margins. This disease is most active during cool, we weather.

To combat these fungal diseases, remove and destroy infected plant material and treat with a registered fungicide.

Crown Gall - Crown gall is a bacterial disease that lives in the soil. This disease enters the rose through wounds on the roots or stem. Once inside the plant, the bacterium causes the rose to produce large, corky growths on the stem and at the base of the plant. Once a rose plant is infected with crown gall, the rose will stay infected. Prune out galls with a pair of sharp pruners, sterilizing the shears with a 10% bleach solution between cuts.

Viral Diseases - A number of viruses can affect roses. Usually the disease is transmitted through bud or tissue materials, during propagation (grafting). Symptoms vary, with splotches, streaking, or rings of yellowing appearing on leaves. There is no control for viral disease, but viruses generally are not that harmful to rose plants.

Insects

Roses are host to a number of insect pests. Some of the more common ones are as follows:

Aphids - Aphids are small 1/8" insects that are found on rose buds and leaves. These insect pests suck juices from the rose plant, leaving behind a sticky substance called honeydew (excess plant sugars that the aphids excrete). This can cause a black sooty mold to grow on leaves and stems.

Flower Thrips— Flower thrips are a rasping insect that feed on plant tissue. They are tiny, slender, and yellow, brown, or black in color, with fringed wings. Their feeding causes flower buds to distort and fail to open. The rasping can also cause a stippling on leaves.

Spider Mites - Spider mites are a sucking insect whose feeding can cause leaves to become stippled or bronzed, curled, and to sometimes drop off the plant. Often there is fine webbing on the leaves when mites are present. Mites are very small and can be yellow, green, or red in color.

Sawflies (Roseslugs) - Roseslugs are the larvae of small wasps called sawflies. Eggs are laid between leaf surfaces, later hatching out as small green caterpillars or small slimy, slug-like larvae (depending on species of wasp). These caterpillars or larvae feed on leaf surfaces and cause a skeletonized appearance to leaves.

For control of the above insect pests, use an insecticidal soap or registered insecticide, following label directions.

Leaf Cutter Bee - Leaf cutter bees are small, hairy, metallic blue or green bees that are excellent pollinators. These bees cut small, sometimes oval pieces from leaves in order to build their nests. Controlling this insect is not recommended, since damage from leaf cutter bees is minimal and will not cause overall harm to the plant. Leaf cutter bees are considered beneficial and not a pest.



In Conclusion

The home gardener can grow beautiful roses, keeping in mind to be careful in choosing healthy plants, properly planting and maintaining roses, and monitoring for and controlling insect and disease problems. With a little effort, you can be rewarded with years of colorful, fragrant blooms.

For more information
visit the Master Gardener
Diagnostic Clinic

May through September
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WSU Extension Office
901 E 7th Avenue, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone: (509) 962-7507

<http://www.kittitas.wsu.edu>

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Roses

A Gardener's Guide to Health & Beauty



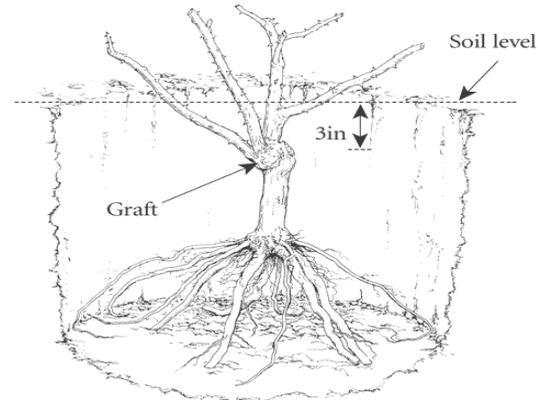
Choosing Healthy Roses

When at the nursery, be a “wise consumer” and choose roses that are healthy and pest free. Number 1 grade roses are your best choice. Roses with this rating have well-developed roots, large healthy canes with no shriveling or black tissue, and healthy buds and leaves. Also, look for roses that are resistant to powdery mildew, rust, and black spot.

Cold winters and fluctuating temperatures can be tough on landscape plants. Old garden roses, some species roses, English roses, rugosa roses, and some shrub roses are the hardiest choices. There are floribundas and hybrid tea roses that can be grown, but are more tender and need increased winter protection. Choose rose varieties that are hardy to your part of Kittitas County.

Properly Planting Roses

Properly choosing a planting site and preparing the garden bed for your roses is extremely important. Most roses need at least six hours of full sun daily. Do not plant roses too close to other trees and shrubs that will compete for food and light. Roses need good air circulation, so unless they are resistant to powdery mildew, rust, and blackspot, avoid planting them against walls or fences,.



Roses need a well-drained soil with lots of organic matter and a fairly neutral pH (6.5 to 7). Have a soil test done prior to planting and then provide the prescribed amendment to meet plants’ needs. Do not add any minerals without a soil test recommendation.

Adding manure or compost directly to a small planting hole can promote root rot. It is better to incorporate these materials over a large area, such as an entire landscape bed. Ideally, prepare rose beds in the fall, giving the manure or compost a chance to incorporate itself into the soil over the winter. Plant roses the following spring.

Soak bareroot roses for several hours, and water other roses well before planting. Dig a hole about as deep as the root wad OR just deeper than the graft union, and about three times as wide. Make a mound of soil in the center of the hole and carefully drape the rose roots over the mound. Carefully backfill all around, making sure that no air pockets are left behind and that the roots are not twisting around each other.

Finally, water well. Inspect that the rootcrown is just at the level of the soil, or for grafted roses that the union is about two inches below the surface of the soil.

Water and Fertilization

Once roses are established, they need extra nitrogen for optimal growth. Use a good nitrogen-based fertilizer/aged compost. In addition, roses need phosphorous for strong, healthy roots. Phosphorous and potassium are needed for lots of blooms. Use fertilizers according to label directions, working the fertilizer into the soil and watering it well.

Roses require lots of water. A good place to start is 1” to 2” per week, or enough to keep the soil moist about a foot below the surface. Soaker hoses are an easy option that will reduce

diseases promoted by wet leaves. Another method is to set a sprinkler on low, being careful to not get foliage wet.

Weeding and Mulching

Weeding your roses is very important. Weeds compete for nutrients and water and sometimes can harbor disease and insect pests. Weed regularly and frequently, using a hand trowel or weed cultivator. Using a hoe is not a good idea, since roses are very shallow rooted.

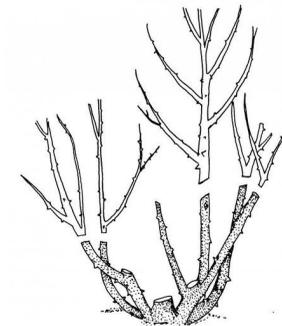
Adding mulch will go a long way in reducing the number of weeds in landscape beds. Add 2 to 4 inches of bark chips, aged compost, or grass clippings. Make sure the grass clippings are herbicide free (no weed and feed). Do not incorporate the mulch into the soil as this will deplete nitrogen.

Deadheading and Pruning

To encourage continual or repeat bloom, remove old flower blossoms (referred to as deadheading). This will also give you larger flowers.

Pruning is generally done in the spring, after cold temperatures are past. Tea, grandiflora, polyantha, floribunda and most climbing roses are pruned in the spring. Other roses, such as old-fashioned ramblers, alba, gallica, moss, Portland, hybrid perpetual, and centifolia roses bloom on old (2nd year) wood, which means they should be pruned immediately after they bloom.

Shrub roses are a very diverse group, with some shrub roses requiring spring



From North Carolina State University Extension

pruning and others getting pruned after they bloom. Rugosa roses also have varieties that are either spring or summer pruned. Here are some general pruning tips:

- ◆ Prune out dead or diseased rose canes
- ◆ Remove any weak or crossing shoots
- ◆ Cut out 2 or 3 older canes to help reinvigorate your rose bushes.
- ◆ Cut to an outside facing bud (buds that aren’t pointing to the center of the bush)
- ◆ Use a sharp pair of bypass or scissor-type pruning shears (anvil pruners don’t make as clean a cut)

Common Insect and Disease Problems

Roses can be plagued by a number of insects and diseases. The most common problems are as follows:

Diseases

Blackspot - Blackspot is a fungus that causes black circular spots on rose leaves. In some cultivars of roses, leaves may also turn yellow and drop. Blackspot is most likely to occur when weather is rainy and temperatures are between 50°F and 80°F.

Rust - Rust is also a fungus disease that attacks roses. Symptoms are small, yellow to rusty-orange lesions on the top of the leaf. On the underside of the leaf, powdery, orange pustules appear. This disease also favors warm, rainy weather, appearing when temperatures are 60°F to 70°F in the spring and early summer.

Powdery Mildew - Powdery mildew is a disease that appears later in the summer when there is little rainfall and temperatures are between 70° and 80°F. Symptoms include a powdery growth or mat covering rose buds, stems, and leaves. Leaves can become distorted and puckered.