



Planting Roses

This is a general guideline for installing roses, and by no means a complete authoritative. Please contact us for specific problems or concerns.

Locating a site for your roses

Roses require at least **six hours of direct sunlight** to flower and perform well. No matter how healthy the rose, or good the soil, if there is inadequate sun, you will not get blooms!

Morning sunlight is great as it dries off the night's dew, which help prevent leaf diseases.

Methods for preparing the soil

Preferred Method *Tilling and amending an entire bed*

Roses need a loose soil rich in nutrients. A loose or coarse soil allows water and air to pass around the soil particles. To amend a bed for roses we suggest the following:

Till your soil about 10-12" deep

Add Mr. Natural's Complete Landscape Mix or Mushroom Compost along with Topsoil

For every 3'x3' area you are amending, add 2 bags Complete Landscape Mix or Mushroom Compost. Also add 2 bags topsoil or Soil Conditioner.

Sprinkle 2 cups Mills Magic Rose Mix to every 3' x 3' area

Till this into the soil, and rake smooth.

If you have the means to do a ph test, the ph should be between 5.5 – 6.5.

You can also have your soil tested by the Georgia Extension Office

It may be necessary to add lime to raise the ph, but most roses will perform well as long as the ph is not real high or real low.

If you cannot till an entire bed, or are planting just one rose

Dig your hole about 10-12" deep, and 30" wide

Keep about 1/3 of the soil you dug up.

Mix 1 bag Mr. Natural's Complete Landscape Mix, **and**

1 bag topsoil into the soil you kept.

Add 2 cups Mills Magic Rose Mix and mix into the soil before planting

Planting Your Roses

Plant most roses at least 3-4 feet apart. Larger-growing roses like English Roses should be planted at least 5-6 feet apart. You want to keep good air circulation around your roses to help prevent disease.

Gently turn the container over, and gently shake the rose out. Do not grab the trunk and pull.

Plant at the same depth as the container. Do not put soil on top of the existing rootball.

Using your fist, firmly tamp the soil around the rootball as you backfill.

Water your roses in well, wetting the soil, but not the foliage.

Best Watering Practices

You want to water the roots, not the foliage. The drier the foliage, the less problems you will have. Avoid using overhead sprinklers. Hand-watering, soaker hoses, or drip irrigation are the best way to water roses.

Watering early morning, or during the night is more efficient than watering mid-day.

How often your roses need watering will vary with weather and soil conditions. You can expect to water new roses 3-4 times a week to help them get established. Established roses should require watering during the spring and summer once or twice a week at most.



Weekly Rose Care

Late February/Early March

Rake back mulch from roses

Remove weak or dead canes

Prune remaining canes back to 18-24" tall (climber cut back after first flush of blooms)

Remove dead leaves from ground around roses as they may carry disease spores from last season

Scratch into the soil around each rose 2 cups Mills Magic Rose Food and 1/4 cup Cotton Seed Water in the soil

Apply Bayer 3 in 1 Rose Care or comparable organic product

(Reapply according to the directions throughout the season)

March

Begin biweekly spray program with Fungicide Spray or comparable organic product when new foliage appears, continue spraying biweekly until killing frost in fall

(Do not wait to see a problem, spray as preventive maintenance.)

May through August

Once a month, apply Easy Feed fertilizer following the directions on the label

August

Apply Mills Magic Rose Mix at 2 cups per rose

November

Rake away dead leaves, and mulch well around base of rose bush.

Do not prune at this time

Problems? Hickory Flat 770-442-3901 Canton 770-345-5252