



# Roses

## ON THE PALOUSE

Roses are flowering shrubs belonging to the family of plants Rosacea. Roses have been bred to produce in a wide variety of colors, styles, and growing conditions. Grafted and own root stock roses are available. The following short description lists what should take place during each season to produce healthy roses.

### *Spring*

Uncover grafted roses (mulched) in early to mid-April to gain strength, vigor and sunlight. Roses need a minimum of 6 hours of sunlight daily.

Use compost or mulch to freshen rose beds.

Roses can be uncovered at 20 degrees Fahrenheit.

Cut away canes or shoots that are less than pencil width.

Cut away dead wood, diseased canes and crossed canes.

Leave at least 3-6 canes, 12-18", in a vase shape with an open center for circulation.

Begin fertilizing as soon as leaf sets lose red sheen, turning green—April to early May.

Apply dry fertilizer at the drip line in a trench and water well.

Use a complete rose fertilizer at 6-week intervals. (10 Nitrogen, 10 Phosphorus and 10 Potassium). Water in fertilizer.

### *Summer*

Roses need long drinks of water.

Moisture should be available to 12-18 inches below the surface, equaling 1.5-3 inches water depending on soil type.

If you overhead water, do so in the morning so the canes and leaves dry out during the day.

*continued on reverse*



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## *Summer*

- Dead head or prune spent flowers by cutting back to an outward growing 5-leaf bracket.
- Watch for insect problems. For aphids and spider mites, fertilize with systemic insecticide. Pick off or wash off mild infestation of aphids.
- For Black Spot, avoid overhead watering, use dormant spray. Remove all diseased leaves.
- For Powdery Mildew Fungi—apply systemic fungicides.
- Apply your final fertilizer application in mid-August and use 0-10-10 (no nitrogen).

## *Fall*

- Give roses a good drink before the ground freezes.
- In mid-November, after the ground is frozen, spread 1-2 inches of mulch in beds containing own root stock roses.
- Grafted roses require 12 inches of mulch in and around the canes to prevent alternating freezing and thawing.

## *Winter*

- Research new varieties and styles appropriate for the Palouse.
- Be adventuresome! Try something new! Know your zone climate!

### *Sources and Credits |*

University of Idaho, Latah County Extension Master Gardeners | WSU, Spokane County Extension | Spokane Rose Society | The Rose Bible, by Rayford Clayton Reddell | Lynn Schafer, American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian | [helpmefind.com](http://helpmefind.com)

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