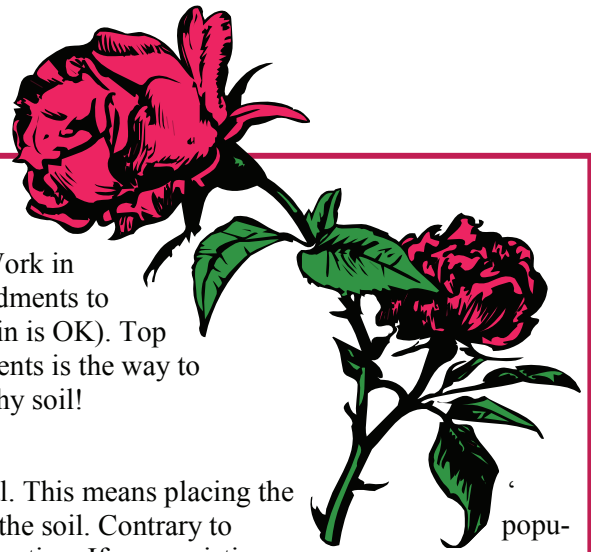


# All about ROSES



## **SOIL:**

Roses must have organic-rich, healthy soil. If you don't feel like amending your soil, forget about growing roses. It's that important. Work in lots of well-rotted or dried manure, leaf humus or other organic amendments to the existing topsoil, and remove as much clay as possible (a little left in is OK). Top dressing in spring and again in fall with any of these organic amendments is the way to go. Continual use of SoilSoup® is unquestionably important for healthy soil!

## **PLANTING:**

Next to good soil, planting your roses correctly is vital in rose survival. This means placing the 'knuckle' (bud union or graft or crown) of the plant at least **2" under** the soil. Contrary to popular belief, this will not suffocate the rose and ensures good winter protection. If your existing roses have their 'knuckles' above the soil, by all means replant! This can be done in May or in mid-September. Also, plant fewer rather than more roses together. Crowding roses is a bad idea, as good airflow and light is essential to rose health. Add Mycorrhizae (see info on next page) to the roots.

## **LIGHT:**

Roses love sun. They need at *least* 6 full hours of sun a day. If you have a shade garden, roses are not for you; that being said, however, there are a few roses that can grow successfully with only 3-4 hours of daily full sun. Ask our rose specialist or read through the posted info in our Roseville.

## **WATERING:**

When first planted, roses need coddling and a consistent watering. Make a slight depression in the soil around the base of the plant; this will hold a small reservoir of water that will seep into the soil and help prevent runoff. Once well-established (after about 2 years), roses don't need as much water babying, but it's still a good idea to keep an eye on them. Best to water in the morning—midday watering can cause burning on the leaves and night watering promotes disease. Always apply water at the base of the rose, not just aiming the hose over the entire plant. Surprisingly, late summer through fall is an important time to keep roses watered—it's a lot drier than you think at that time of year, and a rose that's dehydrated goes into winter weak and susceptible to serious damage and disease.

## **WINTERIZING:**

By late November/early December it's time to put the roses to bed. Make sure the plants have been well-watered (see above), and remove all rose leaves from the soil (they can harbor diseases). If you like, sprinkle a little crushed mothball flakes around the base of the rose to prevent rodent nibbling and nesting. At the very least, mound the bases high (at *least* 12") with leaf humus, dried manure or compost. This will significantly aid in winter protection. You can also spray the canes with Wilt Pruf®, an anti-desiccant that helps prevent moisture loss. By the way, do not cut roses back in fall; wait until spring. Extra protection is wise and advised; roses can either be protected by a cage of some sort or wrapped in burlap. Stuffing leaves among the rose canes when they have been extra-protected is great for added insulation, as well as stuffing in leftover Christmas tree branches and recycled greens from the holidays.

## **SPRING CLEANUP**

In mid to late April remove winterizing cages or burlap to let warmer temperatures and moist airflow in, and brush aside the mounded soil at the base of your roses in early May.

## **PRUNING/DEADHEADING**

As previously mentioned, do *not* prune back roses in fall, but wait until spring when the leaves are starting to swell on the canes. This way you can tell what is truly deadwood and needs to be removed. Cut out any wimpy stems from the base and existing strong canes, as well as any stems crossing or going through the center of the plant (they restrict airflow). Deadheading (removing spent blooms) is very good for the plant and encourages more blooms. Always prune down to where a set of five leaves emerges from the stem, as this is a high-energy point and you'll get better regrowth.

## **FERTILIZING:**

Roses are very, very hungry plants. Start feeding as soon as you see leaves swelling on spring stems and continue monthly until the end of July.

### **Messenger®**

Apply as a spray solution to the leaves every 2-3 weeks until late August. This product is a plant protectant that stimulates natural disease-fighting mechanisms and promotes significant flower yield. This is fabulous and unbelievably effective!

### **Late April: per rose**

1/2 cup Super Phosphate  
1/4 cup Rose Tone®  
1/4 Epsom Salts (pre-dissolved in some warm water)

*Mix together and work gently into base of pre-watered rose with a garden trowel. Water well*

### **Late May, Late June, Late July: per rose**

3 capfuls Monty's Joy Juice® diluted in watering can

*Apply at least one hour after thoroughly watering roses; never feed when soil is dry.*

### **Optional: Susan's 'Sunnybrook Rose Cocktail'**

*(apply late May and if you want, again late June)*

*In a 2-gallon watering can, mix together:*

1 teaspoon Liquid Ivory™ Dish Soap  
2 capfuls Neptune® Fish and Seaweed fertilizer  
2 capfuls Monty's Joy Juice®  
2 tablespoons Epsom Salts (first dissolved in some warm water)  
1 capful concentrated safer® Insecticidal Soap  
1 cup Tobacco 'Tea' (soak 20 cigarette butts in a bucket of water for 3-4 weeks at room temperature until water is a disgusting dark brown, strain out tobacco and keep water-- always dilute this when using!)  
1 can regular, not light, beer  
1 pureed ripe banana, with peels but not knobby ends

*Top off with water and mix thoroughly. Makes 16 cups; use 1 to 2 cups per rose.*

*Apply at least one hour after thoroughly watering roses; never feed when soil is dry because the plant can't absorb the nutrients.*

### **FOR DISEASES: (Black Spot, Powdery Mildew, Rust, etc.)**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Exel® Fungicide  | (use only as a foliar spray if using mycorrhizal product)                      |
| Safer® Fungicide | (use only as a foliar spray if using mycorrhizal product)                      |
| Organicide®      | (use only as a foliar spray if using mycorrhizal product), also an insecticide |
| Messenger®       | a plant 'protector', spray on leaves every 3 weeks                             |

### **FOR PESTS: (Aphids, mites, Japanese beetles, rose borer, caterpillars, etc.)**

|                          |                                   |  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Milky Spore              | Japanese Beetle                   | apply to lawn up to 3 times @year                  |
| Caterpillar Killer®      | Leaf Caterpillar                  | use in mid-May to late June to prevent defoliation |
| BioNeem                  | 4-line Beetle, scale, all purpose |  |
| Safer® Insecticidal Soap | Aphids, all purpose               |  |

### **SOILSOUP® : Beneficial Bacteria**

This is a **highly oxygenated compost tea** that we brew here at Sunnybrook. Providing exceptional vigor and disease resistance for your plants, SoilSoup® contains billions of microbes; invisible live bacteria vital to the life of your soil but missing in almost all common-day garden beds. This 100% organic liquid breaks down clay into a more humus-rich soil, eliminates thatch from lawns, enables plants to more readily absorb applied organic fertilizers and the inherent oxygen kills nasty viruses like black spot and powdery mildew.

As soon as roses start breaking into leaf, spray the entire plant with SoilSoup®, drenching the leaves top and bottom, and lightly water the base of each rose with it as well.

Apply undiluted SoilSoup® as a foliar spray and light watering at least every 2-3 weeks, from late April/early May until mid-June. After then, apply every 4 weeks until early November. After the first season, SoilSoup® can be diluted and used a bit less frequently if desired.

SoilSoup® is sold at Sunnybrook by the recycled gallon milk jug, and is also available as individual home-brew machines.

***(for more info check soilsoup.com)***

### **MYCCORHIZAE : Beneficial Fungus**

When you're walking through the woods and kick over a pile of rotting leaves, you've probably noticed the underside is covered with white, stringy material. That's Mycorrhizae-- a naturally occurring beneficial fungus in the soil, which forms colonies in the plant's root zone. Found in old, established soils, it is rarely present in today's gardens.

- Mycorrhizae vastly improve water and nutrient uptake by extending the plant's roots further out into the soil; in fact, plants with Mycorrhizae have up to 700% more root surface.

- Mycorrhizae also release chemicals into the soil that dissolve essential minerals, which renders them into an available form to the plant.

- A natural inoculant, they also produce specific antibiotics that attack disease organisms.

- By enabling plants to absorb more phosphorous, Mycorrhizae help plants grow faster and bloom more.

Because Mycorrhizae is found in very old, undisturbed soils, it is rarely found in our regular garden soil. By adding it to your garden, you will see an astonishing difference in just one season!