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WINGARD'S PLANT SPECIFICS

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# ROSES

Roses are wonderful landscape plants that are unmatched for the length of season in which they bloom and the amount of color they produce. With a variety of growth habits, sizes and fragrances, there is most likely a rose that is perfect for any sunny spot in the garden. There is a general attitude that growing roses is difficult; however, with proper planting, adequate light and correct watering practices, success can be achieved. There is nothing more rewarding than roses cut from the garden!

**ROSE TYPES** Basic understanding of classes of roses will help you appreciate their versatility.

**Hybrid Teas** - One of the most popular rose types, these are tall, long-stemmed roses, ideal for cutting. Flowers are usually borne one to a stem. The bush can grow 6 ft. tall with an upright habit.

*Mr. Lincoln*



**Floribundas** - Choose floribundas if you need fairly low-growing plants that produce great numbers of colorful flowers. These bushy shrubs have large, showy blossoms, set in clusters on short stems. **Polyanthas** are the forerunners to Floribundas.

*Julia Child*



**Grandifloras** - A grandiflora is a cross between a floribunda and a hybrid tea rose. They generally feature classic hybrid tea flowers in clusters with stems that are slightly shorter than those of hybrid teas. The bush is upright and may grow up to 6 ft. tall.

*Queen Elizabeth*



**Shrub** - These roses offer a compact growth habit and mass color throughout the season. The Knock Out varieties have become extremely popular in southern landscapes. They are disease resistant and require very little pruning, however, dead-heading will encourage more blooms.

*Rosa 'Radtko' Double Knock Out*



**Climbing Roses** are a great addition to a fence or arbor. They produce very long canes that must be anchored to the supporting structure. Many varieties will produce flowers throughout the blooming season. **Antique Roses** are those hybridized before 1867, also known as **Old Garden Roses**, and represent a diverse group with great variety in plant habit, flower form and fragrance. **Miniatures** are usually between 6 and 36 inches in height with leaves and flowers in perfect proportion. Most bloom throughout the season and are a great choice for color in small spaces in containers or the landscape.

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**A BIT OF ROSE TERMINOLOGY** - Roses consist of **roots** that take up water and nutrients, **canes** (stems) that grow from the **crown** of the plant (where the canes end and the roots begin). The branching canes grow from the **bud eyes** that sprout at intervals along the primary canes. The leaves are usually produced in five-leaf **leaflets**.

## CHOOSING A PLANTING SITE

- Select a spot that receives a minimum of 5-6 hours of direct sun each day.
- Check for drainage by digging hole and filling it with water. The hole should empty within several hours. Improve drainage with tilling or making raised beds.
- Don't plant near large trees or shrubs - they will compete for light, water and nutrients. Don't plant under eaves or gutters to avoid damage from falling water, snow or ice.

## PLANTING A CONTAINER GROWN ROSE

Dig a hole 2 times the size of the nursery pot. Amend soil as needed by adding organic matter to sandy soil or by adding soil conditioner to clay soil. Loosen the soil around the root ball. Place root ball in the hole, so that the top of the root ball is about 1 inch above ground level (to allow for settling). Work the amended soil around the roots to eliminate any air pockets. Water thoroughly and add mulch to help retain moisture. When planting more than one, space 2-3 feet apart or away from other plants to allow breathing room.

## TO PRUNE OR NOT TO PRUNE

Don't prune shrub roses (including KnockOuts) after their first growing season. Give them a second growing season to establish shape and fullness. During the following dormant season (wait till January), remove any dead branches as well as branches growing sideways. Shape as necessary. Rather than making a straight cut across the top of the bush, make cuts at different levels throughout the body of the plant and cut ends of "leggy" branches.

Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, and Grandifloras should be pruned every year at the end of the dormant season, when buds have begun to swell, BEFORE new leaves appear. First prune out dead or diseased growth, then any branches that rub together. Young plants should be further pruned to about four canes, by removing weaker canes. Established plants can be allowed 8 or more canes. Remove any suckers growing from the roots of the old plant. Prune remaining canes back to about one-third original height. Pruning will open up the plant, letting in light and circulation, and stimulate growth. To encourage repeat blooming during the growing season, prune frequently by cutting just above 5-leaf leaflets.

Don't prune a climbing rose for 2-3 years and then only cut lateral branches. Never cut the main canes. ➔

## WATERING

Consistent watering and proper drainage are vital for roses to flourish.



- ⇒ Roses should be watered deeply (1-2 inches per week). This will encourage strong root growth. Even in winter, occasional watering during dry periods will help them perform better during the next growing season.
- ⇒ Avoid wetting the foliage to help prevent disease.
- ⇒ Water more frequently in sandy soil, less frequently in clay soil.

## FERTILIZING

In general, roses need frequent applications of fertilizer to keep them growing vigorously and blooming repeatedly. Knock Out and some Antique roses are exceptions. **Soil pH is extremely important.** Roses prefer a slightly acidic soil with a pH in the range of 5.6 to 7.2. Start fertilizing in early spring before growth begins, and repeat every 4-6 weeks during the growing season. **Be sure to follow application directions.**

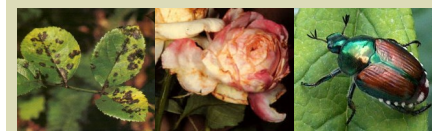


**PESTS & DISEASES** - Common problems:

**Black Spot:** Fungus caused by excessive moisture, poor drainage. **Thrips & Aphids:** Insects that feed on buds and flower petals causing browning and deformed buds. **Japanese Beetles:** The adult stage of grubs, these insects can destroy foliage and blooms overnight. Thankfully, their stay in the garden is temporary, usually in mid-summer.

Preventive measures can be taken to avoid or minimize these problems. Pick up prunings and apply fresh mulch to prevent Black Spot. Use Horticultural Oil Spray in the winter to smother insect eggs and to kill disease spores; apply Ferti-lome 2-in-1 Systemic Disease & Insect Control during the growing season.

Many chemical, as well as, organic treatments are available if the problems persist. While chemical products are highly effective, they will eliminate both the bad and the good insects. Always spray/apply in late evening to avoid killing bees.



**NOTE:** It is **IMPORTANT** to make a clean cut at a 45-degree angle above an outward facing bud, sloping downward TOWARD the bush.

