

## **INSECT CONTROL**

The two most common insects to watch for are red spider and aphids. Depending on the insect, application may vary from 3 days to once a week.

## **FERTILIZATION**

An all purpose rose fertilizer should be used at least every 3-4 weeks during the entire growing season. For more specific questions on care, contact us for suitable products and directions for help.

## **WINTER PROTECTION**

Wait until the end of November to prepare your rose for winter. It is best to prune the rose back to 9-12" above the graft at this time. Winter protection can be provided in several ways. Rose cones are Styrofoam cylinders that can be placed over the rose for insulation. Many come with removable lids that will prevent moisture from collecting on warm sunny days. Also available are rose collars, which require some mulching around the rose.

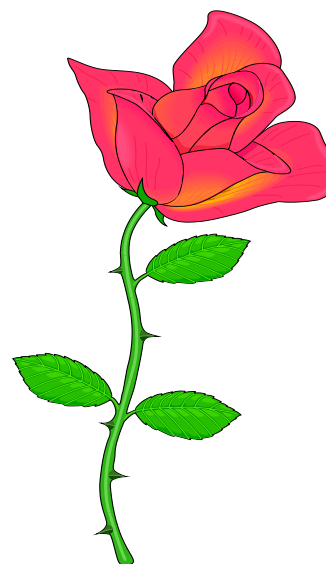
Another method is mounding peat-moss (or soil) around the rose about 8-12" high. The use of sphagnum peat-moss will prevent fungi that could be transmitted through dried leaves. Winter mulch protection should not be used until the ground is freezing in early winter and should remain until daytime temperatures remain consistently over 32 degrees. In spring it is time to begin your fertilizing program again. A conscientious effort to provide this care will result in a life time of rose enjoyment.

We at Bennett's are here every day to give "Helping Hand Hints" personally, one to one. Many gardening problems are very specific, and we couldn't possibly cover all aspects in these pamphlets. Any time you have a specific problem or need help, feel free to call. It's our job to help you be successful in your growing endeavors, and we thoroughly enjoy giving you a "helping hand."

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**BENNETT'S**  
*Everything from the ground up...*

# **Helping Hand Hints**



# **ROSES**

# ROSES

At Bennett's we carry a wide variety of roses. Our varieties are divided into these major types.

HYBRID TEA - - - - - - - - - - large single blossom on long stem perfect for cutting

FLORIBUNDA- - - - - - - - - - 5-7 flowers in large clusters, best for viewing at a distance

GRANDIFLORA- - - - - - - - - - .2-3 flowers in clusters with long stems

CLIMBERS- - - - - - - - - - ever-blooming with abundant clusters of flowers on long canes which can be secured to fences, etc

SHRUB- - - - - - - - - - - old fashioned type with dense bunches of small flowers, hardy and care free

MINIATURES - - - - - - - - - - hardy, continually blooming, small 1-1 1/2 " shrubs  
TREE ROSES- - - - - - - - - - - nearly any variety-grafted onto a tall 2-5' main stem (ask us about specific care)

Each type of rose is available in a number of colors and varieties. When choosing a plant it is important to buy the type that suits your intended purpose. Always look for 3-5 strong, greenish main canes. These are termed #1 roses, the largest plants sold and the only size sold here at Bennett's. Regardless of variety, roses need a minimum of 5 hours of sunlight and plenty of room for air circulation.

## PLANTING

It is important to provide proper soil conditions for your rose. Roses do well in slightly acidic soils, rich in organic matter. In this area of Indiana we recommend the use of sphagnum peat moss to amend the soil. A mixture of peat moss and soil will help break up heavy clay soils, improve the drainage around the plant and will add organic matter.

Dig a hole twice the diameter of the peat pot and 2-3" deeper. The soil that is removed from the hole should be worked thoroughly with 1 part sphagnum peat moss to 1 part soil. Using a sharp knife, make 3-5 vertical cuts through the side of the pot. Place pot in the hole and back-fill to 1/2 of the depth with the soil mix. Make sure that the graft rests approximately 1-2" below the soil line.

At this point tear or cut away any portion of the pot that would be above ground. Tamp lightly to remove any air pockets. At this time a starter fertilizer should be used. We suggest a liquid root stimulator or a slow release planting tablet. Fill remaining hole with water and allow to drain. After the water has been absorbed, finish filling the hole with soil mix. *DO NOT PACK SOIL AT THIS TIME.* Water thoroughly again to insure the soil is settled in around the roots. These two waterings will cause soil to settle and help insure the roots will receive ample water to relieve transplant shock. Through the growing season water once a week (approximately 1" of water) to supplement rainfall, especially important in the dry summer months. Avoid wetting foliage as much as possible. It is also generally unwise to prune a newly planted rose except for removing injured branches.

## CARE

Growing roses while very enjoyable when they are in bloom does require some care. This care can be divided into these categories – pruning, disease control, insect control, fertilization, and winter protection.

## PRUNING

Proper pruning with clean, sharp, shears is important to insure healthy plants. For flower cutting, always cut the stem down 1/4" above a five leaflet. Long-stemmed blossoms are best cut mid-summer through August in our climate. Leaving the last flowers of the season begins to prepare the plant for winter. When cutting branches, prune the weaker of any crossed branches and any suckers. Climber and tree roses are the only roses that don't need pruned because they grow on old growth. Pruning in this manner will produce new strong growth and increase the fullness of the plant.

## DISEASE CONTROL

Removing diseased leaves and stems from the plant and ground, good air circulation and proper watering can help prevent many problems. Watch for powdery mildew and black spot. When these diseases are noticed, your roses should be sprayed once a week.

