



Project List:

Roses

The 'Queen of the Garden', roses can be included in any space with full sun. All are easier to grow and enjoy when you keep these requirements in mind.

- Vital Earth Ready Rose Mix**— 1 bag per plant; 2 bags when planting in unamended soil.
- Espoma Bio-tone Starter Plus** - An organic soil bacteria jump-starter, food, & bio-stimulant for new soils. Excellent to start new beds or add to containers. *Must contact roots.*
- Nature's Creation Root Stimulator**— Water all new plantings thoroughly with the solution and reapply at least once per month for the first 6 months to one year.
- Vital Earth Cedar or Hardwood Mulch**—Mulch cools & retains soil moisture, suppresses weeds, & breaks down slowly to provide additional organic matter. Maintain at least a 2-3" thick layer at all times, keeping mulch at least 2" away from the crown of the plant.
- Espoma Rose-tone Fertilizer**— An organic food made just for roses, apply in late winter and fall for most varieties, and add a summer feeding for re-blooming types.
- Liquid Seaweed**—An organic extract that aids in resistance to temperature fluctuations and disease, and also helps to prevent and deter spider mites. Use as a foliar spray or drench.

Some additional points to remember for success:

- Roses will always do their best in a full sun spot with good air circulation and soil drainage.
- Rose varieties are in two types: 'grafted' roses have flower traits matched to a vigorous root stock and establish quickly; 'own-root' roses are younger, take slightly longer to establish, and are longer lived.
- For plastic containers, thoroughly soak new transplants in **Root Stimulator**. Remove from the container, and plant. Plants in paper fiber pots should be soaked, then have 2-3" long incisions made on 2-3 sides, with the *bottom left intact*. Plant, leaving the rose sitting at its original soil level or just slightly higher, never covering any graft (if present). Lastly, remove the top rim of the pot, and apply mulch.
- Always water deeply and thoroughly. Watering is best done at the soil level, and not done overhead.
- Rose varieties vary in their disease resistance. Keep rose foliage as dry as possible to minimize fungal problems, removing any diseased foliage promptly. If you do encounter fungal issues, use a fungicide according to package instructions. Healthy plants are the best defense against pests and disease.
- Pest problems can be treated as needed. Foliar sprays of **Liquid Seaweed** weekly in the morning can greatly help. See us for a diagnosis, and begin with the least toxic product.
- Most, but not all roses will need a hard pruning around Valentine's Day to prepare for spring blossoms. For repeat bloomers, another pruning should be done in mid-August. These are good times to fertilize, add other amendments, re-mulch, and check overall health, as well.

See a Garden Advisor for additional help in growing successful roses.

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