

# How to Plant and Grow Roses

“A single rose can be my garden; a single friend, my world.”

**Rose bushes are one of the most popular blooming plants in the world! They are prized for their many colors and, oftentimes, for their alluring scent. Bloom sizes range from small and compact to large and lush.**

## Give your Roses the best start.

**Sun.** All roses grow best in full sun. This means at least 6 hours of sun, including morning sun, which helps the dew dry off their leaves (reducing risk of blackspot).

**Soil.** They prefer moist but well-draining soil—slightly acidic, which makes them a great fit for our native soil. We recommend amending the native soil with Daddy Pete’s Planting Mix (the orange bag). The aged pine bark fines provide air space, while the composted cow manure will help retain moisture and add natural nutrition to your soils.

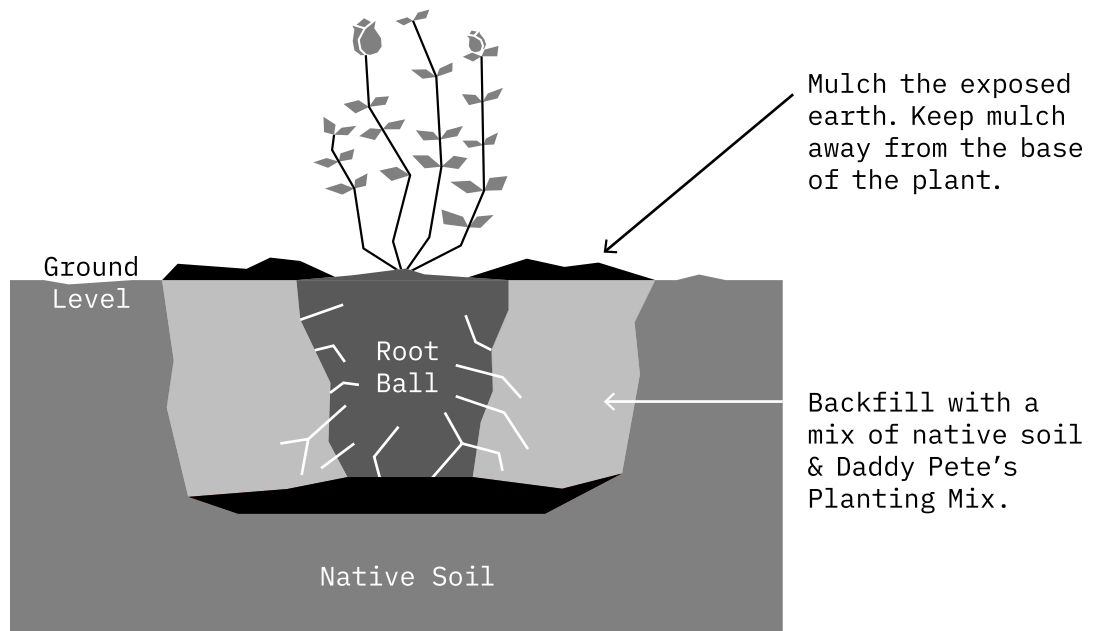
**Planting.** See drawing below. Dig the hole at least half again (double the size, when possible) of the container your rose came in. Plant the rose the depth of the container and no deeper. Do not add fertilizer at this point, although adding

bonemeal will provide the rose with much needed phosphate to promote root growth. Mix the native soil you removed with your soil amendment.

Once planted, make sure you **Water** your rose. **Mulch** around the base to add a protective layer to retain moisture and suppress weeds. Do not let the mulch make contact with the base stem of the plant.

**Feeding.** Roses are coveted for their long-blooming season but to do this they need plenty of nutrients. We recommend using Espoma Plant Tone or Rose Tone every 2-3 weeks. Water after fertilizing to help them to absorb the nutrients. Stop feeding after late summer so they can prepare for dormancy (think: rest) over the winter.

## Planting.



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## Ongoing Rose care.

### Watering

Like all plants, roses need water, especially in our hot months. We recommend up to 2” per week. Pay attention to how much rain we get so as not to overwater. Water at the base of the plant. If it has been really hot and dry, you can shower the leaves early in the morning to clean and wash away pests.

### Disease Control

Many roses are raised to be disease resistant but you can further help by providing the roses with good garden hygiene (e.g., clean up dead or fallen leaves and debris). If you think spraying is needed, use an organic product like Neem Oil (if sprayed regularly, it will repel Japanese beetles and minimize black spot).

### Pruning

Cut out dead or damaged canes in early spring and then throughout the season, when you see them. Prune your shrubs toward the center of the bush to promote better air circulation, also helping to fight black spot. Other pruning is to help maintain the rose in the space you have it planted, to allow it to best bloom freely.

### Winter

Trim your roses back to about 3ft (if they are tall or sprawling) to prevent wind damage. Mulch WELL.