



## Growing Roses in Yavapai County General Guidelines

Roses do well in the high desert climate of Yavapai County. This document contains some general guidelines for planting, pruning and problem management.

### Common Landscape Roses

- Hybrid Tea - *Most popular rose; long stem w/ single flower*
- Floribunda - *Many blooms per stem*
- Grandiflora - *Cross between hybrid tea and floribunda; masses of large flowers per stem*
- Shrub Roses - *Some make good groundcovers, others can form hedges or screening in the landscape; can have single or double blooms*
- Climbers - *Have long, flexible canes that grow well on a support, like a trellis*

### Quick Reference Calendar

January	Plant container grown roses in Sedona, Cottonwood, Verde Valley Clean up debris around canes, mulch to protect from freezing, water if no rain/snow
February	Plant container grown & bare-root roses in Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley Plant bare-root roses in Sedona, Cottonwood, Verde Valley Winter-prune roses in Sedona, Cottonwood, Verde Valley
March	Winter-prune roses in Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley
March/April	Fertilize winter-pruned roses
May	Check for late-frost damage and remove damaged portions of canes
June/September	Fertilize monthly Deadhead (remove spent flowers)
September	Do not apply synthetic fertilizer after September in Prescott area, do not want new growth Ok to apply organic fertilizer, as it needs heat to activate
October	Do not apply synthetic fertilizer after October in Verde area, do not want new growth No need to completely cover roses, our winters are mild enough

### When to Plant Roses in Yavapai County

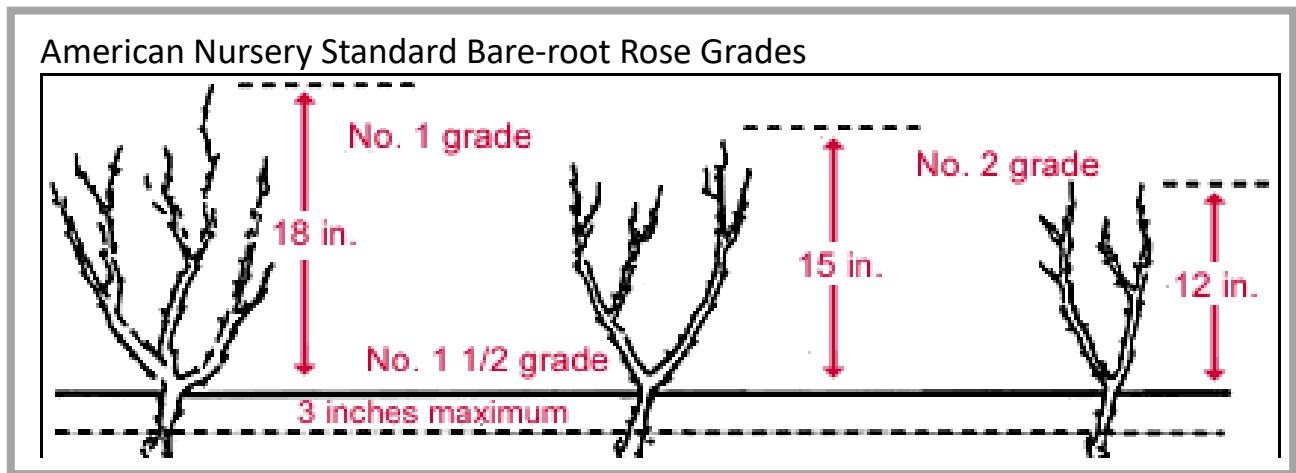
- Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley  
 Plant bare root – February / March  
 Plant container grown – Start in February
- Sedona, Cottonwood, Verde Valley  
 Plant bare root – February / March  
 Plant container grown – Start in January

### How to Plant Container Grown Roses



1. Plant roses at least 3 feet apart in a location with at least 6 hours of sunlight/day
2. Hole should be as deep as the containerized root ball and a little wider
3. Add triple super phosphate (aids roots and blooms) and soil sulfur (helps make alkaline soil more acidic)
4. Carefully remove from container, try not to disturb root ball
5. Carefully straighten coiled roots

## Purchasing Bare-root Roses



### Grade 1

3 or more canes, about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter & large well-developed roots; must be 2 yrs old when harvested from field

### Grade 1 1/2

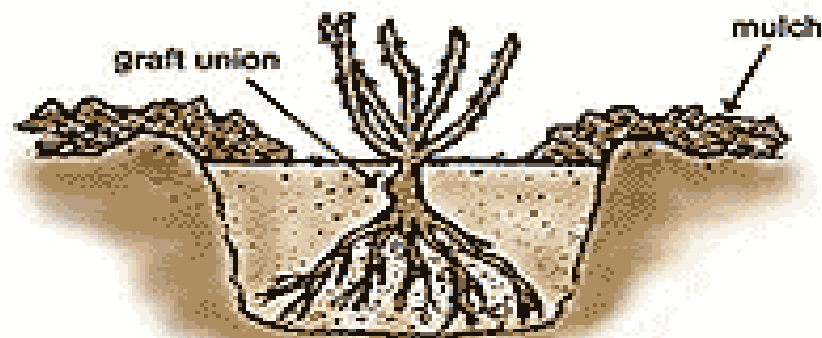
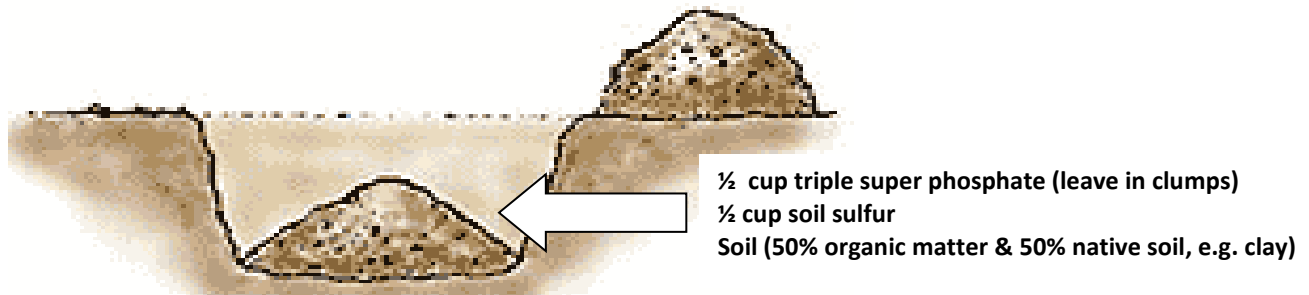
2 strong canes; w/care will catch up to Grade 1-less canes

### Grade 2

Bargain –often with small canes, substandard

## How to Plant Bare-root Roses

1. Dig hole at least 18" to 24" deep and same in width
2. Put soil and amendments in the hole in the shape of a cone



1. Soak entire bush in water for 8 to 24 hrs prior to planting
2. Trim canes back to 8 to 10 inches to outward facing bud eye
3. Cut off damaged roots
4. Spread roots over cone when planting
5. Keep graft union just under the soil level
6. Cover roots with compost/soil mixture
7. Water slowly and deeply to remove air pockets and to keep roots from drying out
8. Firm up soil around bush, but don't compact it
9. Top-dress with mulch; (keep 4 inches away from base of plant)

## Fertilizing

- Ideal pH for roses is 6.0 to 6.5; 6.5 to 7.0 is acceptable for Yavapai County (soil sulfur will help lower pH if you soil is higher than 7.0)
- Roses like a balance of nitrogen (promotes cane and leaf growth) and phosphorus (promotes blooms)
- Fertilize newly planted roses with a balanced fertilizer after the first bloom and then every 6 weeks during the growing season. Use an organic or synthetic fertilizer, the plant won't know the difference. Organic fertilizers work more slowly than synthetic.
- An extra application of nitrogen, e.g. fish emulsion, once a month is beneficial
- Water prior to fertilizing to moisten the soil (to avoid salt burn on roots from synthetic fertilizers); water again after applying fertilizer to move nutrients to root zone
- Do not fertilize after the end of September in the Prescott Area and not after the end of October in the Verde area as it will encourage new growth

## Deadheading and Late Winter Pruning

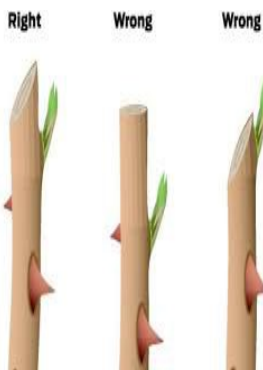
- Remove (deadhead) spent flowers during the growing season to stimulate more flowers
- Prune roses in late winter to remove any remaining leaves, damaged or crossing canes, etc. to stimulate new growth. After late winter pruning there could be some frost damage; remove that as it occurs

Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley – winter prune starting in mid-March

Sedona, Cottonwood, Verde Valley – winter prune starting in February or winter prune as soon as the leaves fall off

## Enjoying Cut flowers or Deadheading

- Cut  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above outward facing five-leaflet
- Leave as many leaves as possible on new plants
- On established plants leave two 5-leaflet leaves on the stem



### **Late Winter Pruning**

1. Dip pruning shears in disinfectant (e.g. Lysol or rubbing alcohol) after pruning each shrub so diseases are not transferred
2. Cut to outside bud so new growth is on the outside of the shrub
3. Prune ¼" above an outside bud, on slight angle
4. Remove
  - all remaining leaves
  - crossing canes
  - dead canes
  - damaged canes - check pith – brown or dark yellow is a sign of disease or cane borers - cut back to live wood
  - weak, spindly (less than pencil-size), or malformed branches or canes
5. Can paint water-based wood glue on fresh cut of large canes to deter cane borers
6. Use wire brush on old wood to generate new growth
7. Add fresh mulch; keep it 4 inches away from base of plant

### Hybrid Teas

- Leave 5 to 8 canes on vigorous bushes; can leave up to 12 canes if good spread
- 1 to 2 yr old plants w/ moderate vigor – cut back to 18 to 24 inches; more vigorous plants 24 to 36 inches
- Amount to prune varies w/ available space as plants grow older; general rule – cut off 1/3 of cane growth
- Keep 2 or 3 well-spaced side branches and cut back to 4" to 6"

### Grandifloras

- Leave 3 to 5 canes
- Leave about 2/3 to 1/2 the height after pruning

### Floribundas

- Often need pruning in center
- Leave more canes than grandiflora and take less off the top

### Carpet Roses

- Shear off or cut back so that it is about a foot tall
- or
- Cut off the top 2/3 of the plant (can use hedge shears or a hedge trimmer)

### Climbing Roses

- Leave major canes to support desired shape
- Cut side branches off major canes to encourage more new growth (flowers)
- Remove all leaves
- Cut crossing, dead canes from base

*Climbers bloom on last year's growth. All other roses bloom on current year's growth.*

## Rose Insects and Diseases

“Diagnosing Problems of Roses in the Landscape” - contains information on identifying and managing insects and diseases common to roses.

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1528.pdf>

### Additional Problem Conditions



Sunburn



Stem Canker



Normal Frost Dieback

### Beneficial Insects



Lacewing larva  
eats aphids



Ladybug stages



Praying mantid  
and egg casing



Hover Fly

December 10, 2021