



Perennial & Shrub Rose Care Guide

*"Where flowers bloom
so does hope"*

- Lady Bird Johnson

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Perennial Plant Care

Early Spring

A general inspection of perennials should be made in early spring

- Any plants that have been partially heaved out of the soil during the winter should be gently pressed back into place.
- The needs of each individual plant should be noted and plans for spring work outlined: some plants will need to be divided, others replaced with younger stock. Remove any remaining dead leaves and stalks from plants and beds.
- An application of fertilizer should be provided, just after plants have started to produce growth. A granular, well balanced food is recommended.

Spring, Summer, Fall

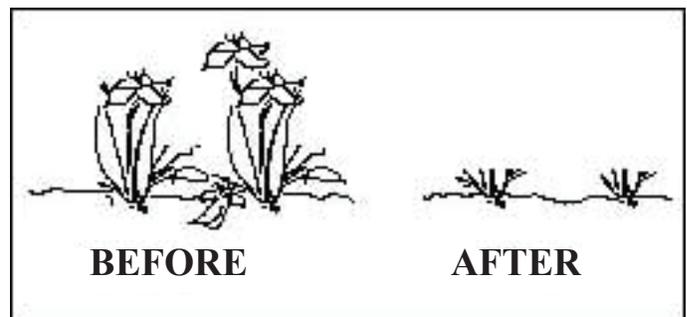
Most perennials require an adequate, but not overabundant supply of moisture throughout the season. Frequent, light waterings are of little value and usually do more harm than good since they draw roots toward the surface. Water as soil conditions and weather dictate, generally once the soil has begun to dry out. Make sure that moisture penetrates deep into the soil.

Perennials benefit from regular pruning/trimming of faded blooms, flower stalks and foliage from spring to autumn frost. This regular practice will help maintain overall appearance and with most perennials, promote and prolong the bloom season.

Late Fall

Fall is a good time to add organic matter for soil renewal. Simply lay 1-2" of compost on top of the ground around the plants. This helps maintain a rich, organic planting area.

Clip most perennials to a height of about 3". They should not be clipped to a nub; just trim enough so they are not unsightly. Perennials which are blackened by frost should be cut back, as should those which have become very limp. Perennials which lend structure and interest to the garden should be left standing until early spring.



How to Care for Shrub Roses

GENERAL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Water from the base of the plant and not overhead. Water that remains on the roses and leaves may cause leaf spot and other disease issues.
- Apply a 2-3" layer of mulch around the base of the plant. Keep the mulch away from the stems.
 - Follow the manufacturer's recommended instructions for applying a rose fertilizer.

WHEN AND HOW TO TRIM AND PRUNE

Bred as a low-maintenance rose, these varieties require only minimal care to thrive. Deadheading is the process of removing spent blooms before seeds form so that the flowering season is extended.

SPRING/SUMMER PRUNING

- Use a sharp scissor-like hand held pruner.
- Always remove deadwood, damaged stems, or spindly cane growth at the base of the rose.
- Trim spent flowers off on the stem right behind the flower head. Trim off any dead or damaged leaves and stems while you are deadheading, as you are more likely to notice these while you are trimming.
- Trim back all the branches that are growing faster than others. This keeps your plant symmetrical.
- Do not do large scale pruning during the summer months. Large scale pruning takes place once a year in late winter or early spring, the dormant season.

DORMANT SEASON PRUNING

In the first year after planting, you will not need to prune the rose at all. Let it grow into shape for one season, and prune it the next year. After that, you'll only need to prune when you want to shape the rose. Roses will bloom on the new growth. To make your cut, look for an outward facing bud and cut just above the bud at a 45-degree angle sloping towards the bush. Doing this will encourage growth so you don't end up with dead stumps.

