

Care
Guide



The easy
way to
great roses

Rose Care *made easy*



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Nothing defines an English garden like a Rose. In surveys, it always tops the charts as the most popular plant to grow and they are the largest group of plants available to gardeners.

Types of roses

Patio – smaller, compact varieties that are great for growing in pots. Have tight clusters of small flowers and can be either dwarf shrub or smaller climbing roses.

Shrub – grow between 4 and 6ft (1.2m – 1.8m) and are a large and diverse group. Can be enjoyed as individual specimens or grown as a hedge.

Climbers – grow to about 6ft (1.8m) and repeat flower all summer and well into autumn.

Ramblers – grow more than 6ft (1.8m) and flower once, normally around June.

Groundcover – form a carpet of colour about 3ft wide by 1.4ft high (1m x 0.5m). Tend to flower profusely and branded as 'Flower Carpet Roses'.



Add well-rotted manure when planting to give your roses a flying start.

General Cultivation

- Roses are hungry plants that respond well to generous feeding. They grow in almost any well drained soil and benefit from a mulch of well-rotted manure during the winter. In the spring and summer, feed with a specially formulated food, such as Top Rose, to keep them looking good.
- Water regularly in the first year after planting, especially in prolonged dry spells. Once established, they can survive on the moisture naturally present in the soil due to their deep root system.
- When growing in containers, regulate your watering so that the compost never dries out, especially during hot or dry periods.
- Dead-head flowers unless the variety produces an attractive seed pod (hip).

Did you know?

Roses are known to have originated in China and then spread over the whole of the northern hemisphere between 60 to 70 million years ago.

Floribunda vs. Hybrid Tea

Floribundas have small clusters of flowers on a stem and make a colourful display. Modern breeding programs are developing the flowers to become bigger and showier.

Cultivated since 1867, Hybrid Tea roses are a cross of repeat flowering Hybrid Perpetual roses and the highly scented Tea roses from China. They have a long stem bearing a single flower, which makes a good cut flower.

Pruning

Here are some general rules you can apply to any rose:

- When cutting a stem, make sure the cuts are no longer than 5mm (1/4inch) above a bud.
- Make your cuts so that they slope away from a bud to allow water to drain off.
- Always remove dead, dying or diseased wood first by cutting back into a healthy stem.
- Remove weak, spindly stems and ones that rub against each other.
- When making cuts, try to select an outward facing bud to promote an open centred shape. This creates good airflow to reduce the chance of fungal diseases.
- For ground cover roses, select an inward facing bud to create a more upright habit.

Specific Pruning

Pruning is normally done in late winter (February to March) with the technique tailored to the specific type:

Patio or miniature roses only need light pruning by removing twiggy growth. After this, the main stems can be reduced by about a third to a healthy bud. Any vigorous shoots that spoil the overall shape can also be removed entirely.

Shrub roses generally flower on older wood. They can be maintained by light, regular pruning by developing a balance of older and younger stems.

Floribunda roses need their most vigorous stems cut back to within 25-30cm (10in-1ft) of soil level and their less vigorous stems cut even more severely.

Hybrid Tea roses need the strongest shoots shortened to between four and six buds above the point where last year's wood began. Also, remove all three year old wood, leaving the younger more vigorous shoots which produce better flowers.

Climbers need any flowered shoots taken back by two thirds of their length. Cut out any really old branches from the base to promote new growth and tie in any new shoots needed to fill supports.

Ramblers need excessive growth thinned and shortened by removing one in three of the oldest stems entirely. If space is restricted, prune out all the stems that have flowered and tie new ones in to take their place. Shorten side shoots by about two thirds.

With **standard roses** – i.e. roses grafted onto a trunk to create a lollipop shape – pruning the crown should be done according to the cultivar used, whether it is a floribunda, hybrid-tea or shrub cultivar.

Fragrance

Roses are often grown for their scent. Whilst red and pink roses hint at a Damask heritage, white and yellows tend to be fruity in nature.

Fragrance is a complex combination of oil and alcohol. These unstable ingredients need the correct humidity and temperature to evaporate so we can detect them.

Hedge your bets by growing roses that have been bred to have a strong fragrance – their genetic disposition to create an abundance of fragrance should prevail over climatic conditions to a certain extent.



Recommended Varieties

For a shady or north wall:

- *R. Madame Alfred Carrière*
- *R. Iceberg Climbing*
- *R. The Generous Gardener*

For partial shade:

- *R. Lady of Shallot*
- *R. Wild Edric*
- *R. Wisley*

For climbing into trees:

- *R. Rambling Rector*
- *R. Veilchenblau*
- *R. Wedding day*

For exceptional fragrance:

- *R. Arthur Bell*
- *R. Gertrude Jekyll*
- *R. Lady Emma Hamilton*

Highly Recommended:

- **Climber:** *R. Falstaff* – large crimson blooms offering a strong classic old rose fragrance
- **Shrub:** *R. Gertrude Jekyll* – heady scent and showy, blackcurrant mousse coloured double flowers
- **Rambler:** *R. The Albrighton Rambler* – repeat flowering with scented, semi-double pink flowers

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