

# *Caring for your Roses*

## **Planting Time**

Containerized roses can be planted all year round, although extra attention to watering will be required in hot spells until the roses are well established.

## **Planting Position**

Select a site with at least four hours of sun each day, although in areas with hot summers shade from the afternoon sun can be beneficial. Generally roses will not flourish where their roots are in competition with the roots of other plants, especially trees and hedges.

## **Planting Distances**

If you have the space, English Roses look superb planted in groups of three or more of one variety. They will then grow together to form one dense shrub, which will provide a more continuous display and make a more definite statement in the border. Depending on the varieties and your climate we suggest planting about 18 - 24" apart within the group and 3-4 ft. between plants of neighbouring varieties.

## **Soil Type**

Roses will grow in a wide range of soils, but they do appreciate good soil preparation. The addition of well rotted manure or garden compost before planting will help ensure strong growth.

## **Planting**

Just prior to planting containerized roses should be soaked for 30 minutes or so and then allowed to drain for an hour or two. When planted, the base of the stems should be about 3" below ground level in cold winter areas.

Water generously until the plant is well established.

## **Feeding, Mulching and Watering**

Feeding, generous mulching and occasional deep watering will help encourage strong growth and more flowers. Mulch in spring, preferably using well rotted manure or garden compost.

## **Healthy Roses**

The best way to keep your roses healthy is to choose disease resistant varieties and grow them as well as possible. Excessive Nitrogen can make roses more susceptible to both pests and diseases. Insecticidal soap is a good way to control aphids and caterpillars. When watering, don't splash water on the leaves. Being careful with your watering will help prevent black spot.

## **Winter Pruning**

Pruning is very easy. Pruning should be delayed until spring growth is just starting and only very minor pruning done in the fall. On all plants, remove very weak, old and woody and dead and diseased stems.

## **Dead-heading**

This is the removal of spent flowers. It encourages repeat-flowering and makes a tidier plant. Either remove just the dead flower or cut the stems down to the first full leaf.