

## ROSE SELECTION GUIDE

At Portland Nursery we stock a huge selection of roses. Most arrive in bare root form during winter and are potted to keep the roots moist and protected. We do not sell them bare root.

### Terms

Learning the lingo will help you when shopping.

**Single** – a flower type with few petals, usually 5.

**Semi-double** – fewer petals than double, ruffled look with visible yellow centers

**Double** – a flower type with many petals, often set in spirals.

**Cupped** – the outer petals form a cup shape, holding other petals tightly.

**Bud Union (graft)** – a bulbous spot at the base where stems unite with roots.

**Own-root** – roses grown on their own roots rather than grafted (they will not have a bud union).

**Hardy** – refers to the minimum temperatures a plant can withstand, not a plant's vigor.

**Disease Resistant** – these plants have shown resistance to at least one of the many fungal afflictions that affect roses in Portland, and may perform better in our rainy climate than others.

*It does not mean "Disease Proof".*



Double

Semi-double

Single

### Rose Types

There are many kinds of roses and learning about them can help to narrow your choices when shopping.

#### Hybrid Tea & Grandiflora Roses

These are what people typically picture when thinking of roses – big formal flowers with long stems. Grandifloras are larger growing and can have larger flowers.

#### Floribunda Roses

Smaller flowers in big clusters and round, shrubby shape.

#### David Austin/English Roses

Bred by crossing old roses with modern types. Big, petal-packed, thickly scented flowers in a wide range of colors and repeat bloom.

#### Landscape Roses

Generally considered to be more disease resistant and easier to care for. Flowers tend to be small and in clusters. Shapes vary from groundcover to large hedge roses.

#### Antique or Old Roses

Roses which have been in cultivation since 1850 or earlier. Most bloom only once a year.

#### Rugosa Roses

Very hardy disease resistant roses, many with a heavy clove scent and enormous rose hips.

#### Native and Species Roses

Wild roses as they occur in nature. Most grow large and have only one annual bloom. Native roses are stocked with Northwest Natives.

#### Climbing Roses

Climbing roses are just like shrub roses, but they grow really long canes which require training.

#### Miniature Roses

Tiny flowers, tiny leaves, small stature.

### Choosing Disease Resistant

Roses in Portland are bombarded with fungal spores constantly because there is so much rain and because we live in a valley. Choosing a rose with genetic disease resistance to at least some fungal problems will make your life easier.

#### Here are our top 5's:

##### Red

Firefighter (ht)  
Knockout (la)  
Love's Promise (ht)  
Oh My! (f)  
Red Drift (l,gcvr)

##### Pink

Bonica (l)  
Eden (cl)  
Gertrude Jekyll (da)  
Knockout Pink Dbl (l)  
New Zealand (ht)

##### Apricot/Orange

Abraham Darby (da)  
Coral Drift (l,gcvr)  
Hot Cocoa (f)  
Polka (cl)  
South Africa (g)

##### Yellow

Graham Thomas (da)  
Julia Child (f)  
K. Golden Gate (cl)  
Lemon Drop (m)  
Midas Touch (ht)

##### Bi-color/Multi-color

Coretta Scott King (g), Love and Peace (ht),  
George Burns (f), Rainbow Sorbet (f),  
Scentimental (f)

##### White

Claire Austin (da)  
Iceberg (f)  
Mt. Hood (g)  
Pope John Paul II (ht)  
White Eden (cl)

##### Lavender/Purple

Memorial Day (ht)  
Night Owl (cl)  
Poseidon (f)  
Thrive! Lavender (l)  
Winsome (m)

## PLANTING ROSES

### Site

Choose a sunny location, at least 6 hours a day, preferably during the hottest part of the day.

Good air circulation is important, so plant roses at least 3' away from other plants.

### Preparing the Soil

Roses grow best in well-drained soil with a pH around 6.5. Creating a rose planting bed, with a large area of amended soil, gives roses a great start. Turn soil over to 12" deep and in as wide an area as possible.

### Add:

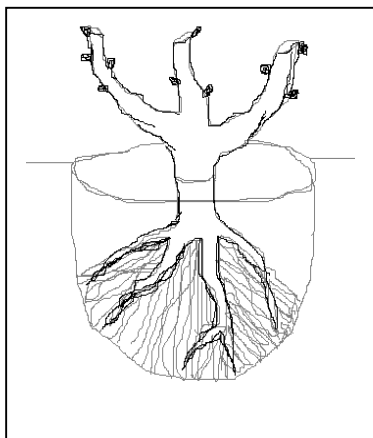
- Compost or rose planting mix, 1 part compost to 3 parts soil
- Lime
- Rose fertilizer

Blend amendments into the bed evenly.

If creating a bed is not possible, dig a 12" deep x 18" wide hole and mix soil well with the above amendments.

### Bare Root Planting

Follow soil prep instructions above. Dig a hole, 12" x 18", and make a cone-shape soil mound in the bottom of the hole.



Spread roots evenly over the soil mound. Fill hole with soil mix – make sure the bud union is above the soil line. Water well. Add 1" of compost over the roots.

## ROSE CARE

You are most of the way to growing successful roses already. At this point, you have selected a site with good sun, allowed for proper air circulation, prepared a bed with well-drained soil, and planted your rose correctly. For continued success, there are a few more things to know.

### Watering

Water once a week with soaker hoses for 30-45 minutes during the first spring-summer while plants are getting established. Morning is the best time. After plants are established, water deeply, but infrequently.

### Feeding

The happiest roses are fertilized. Apply lime once a year to keep pH higher in acidic soil. In addition, any good rose food used as directed will work. Feed from first growth until September 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Please be aware that fertilizers which incorporate systemic insecticides may be a hazard to the health of bees and other pollinators.*

### Pruning

Major rose pruning happens around President's Day in late February.

**For all roses** – remove dead branches, 1-3 of the oldest canes on established roses all the way to the ground, branches that grow toward the interior of the plant rather than toward the outside, spindly growth and rose hips.

**For climbers** – follow the above directions. Tie and train any wayward canes to a support system and **do not** prune low to the ground.

**For shrubby types** Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, etc. follow the above directions, then prune remaining branches to 12".

# Roses

## Getting Started with Roses: Selection, Planting and Care

