



Top 5 Spring/Summer Rose Questions

1. When should I prune my roses?

- This depends on your elevation and exposure. In the Denver area, you can begin pruning as soon as late April. Those living in more exposed areas or higher elevations should prune near mid-May. For once-blooming roses, prune *after* flowering. Be sure to seal cut canes that are larger than 1/8" with nail polish to deter cane borers.

2. I bought potted roses grown in a greenhouse. Can I plant them now?

- Potted roses grown in greenhouses need to be "acclimated". This means placing roses outdoors in the AM sun over the course of 6-8 days to minimize frost or burn damage. Bring roses inside *only* if nighttime temperatures go below 40 degrees. After this, plant and prune back by ½ their height so that root growth is stimulated.

3. How deep should I plant my roses?

- In Colorado, it's recommended to dig a hole deep enough so that the knob on the trunk, or the "graft", is 3" below the soil line. This is for added protection from our springtime freeze/thaw period. Ideally, a hole that is 3 times larger in diameter than the rose container is recommended to promote good root growth.

4. How often should I water my roses?

- This is dependent upon soil compaction, temperature, wind, and sloping. Roses love a big drink of water, not a little every day. In spring, wait until the top 2" of soil is dry before watering long enough to soak the top 3-4" of soil. During the summer months, allow the top 1" of soil to dry before watering.

5. What is the proper way to cut Hybrid Tea blooms?

- Hybrid teas are all about big blooms. Pruning off a suitable length of cane (6-12") with the bloom promotes this. Look for the place where the blooming cane originates. Visually work your way up to the second set of leaves with 5 leaflets that point toward you, and prune right above that.



Bonus: Can I grow roses in Colorado with the current watering restrictions? You can. Here's how...

- 1. Planting groups of roses together** makes watering them easier. This will be especially true of the Hybrid Tea varieties. Adequate amounts of mulch (3-4") applied as a ground cover around the rose area aid in moisture retention and act as a weed barrier. Snake soaker hoses among the rose group before covering with mulch to cut down on watering time, and to prevent water runoff. Remember, as bark mulch breaks down, it depletes the soil of nitrogen. Counter this with a high-nitrogen fertilizer.
- 2. Location, location, location! Correctly amended** soil that is in a wind-protected, afternoon-shaded area will be best for most modern rose varieties. Old garden and groundcover types can endure sunnier, drier areas.
- 3. Incorporate hardier, drought-resistant** shrub, old garden, Canadian, and groundcover roses for a wonderful touch of English charm to your Colorado landscape.