

Growing Roses in Containers



Planting roses in a pot is a great way to grow your favorite flowers on a patio, balcony, or tight outdoor space.

Container

A rose's success in a container begins with the pot.

Choose a container that is at least 18"-24" tall and wide. This allows for good root development without getting root-bound quickly. It must be large enough to accommodate a large root system and maintain moisture without drying too quickly or staying waterlogged.

Ensure the container has ample drainage holes, and if the pot sits on pavement, raise it up slightly to allow for excess water to escape.

Due to a continual growing root system, the rose will need to be repotted every 3-5 years to refresh the soil.

Soil

We recommend a good quality potting mix such as:

Black Gold, Aurora innovations-Greenfields mix, or Fertilome- Ultimate Potting Mix

- Will support strong root development and will hold on to moisture appropriately
- As compaction occurs over time, an amendment of compost or topsoil will provide organic material and help distribute nutrients into the old soil.

Choosing Roses

When choosing a rose, we recommend the following:

- Compact, rounded or upright rose bush habit
- No larger than 3ft x 3ft, optimally 18"x 18"
- Miniature, floribunda, or shrub classifications do best (tree roses will work as well)

Water

Ensure complete soil saturation when watering, and do not repeat until the soil has dried. Using a moisture meter can help determine a more accurate watering schedule.

Fertilizer

Feed roses often as nutrients leach out of the container every time the rose is watered

- Feed every 3-6 weeks
- Use an organic granular fertilizer that will break down slowly and feed the rose for a longer period (Espoma Rose Tone or Gro-Rich rose and perennial food)
- Begin fertilizing in spring once new growth emerges and stop fertilizing by mid-August

Winter

The hardest part of growing a rose in a container is dealing with winter. While roses sold at Tagawa Gardens are hardy enough to survive in Colorado, a container exposes the roses tender roots and if their roots freeze in the soil the rose will fail. Here are two main solutions to ensure success.

- After the rose gets exposed to the first two freezes and begins to drop its leaves you can bring the pot into an unheated and unlit enclosure (garage, storage shed, etc.) for the duration of the winter season. The rose will need to be watered 2-3 times during its dormancy stage. Once early spring arrives, and new growth begins to emerge, it will be time to bring you rose back outside. Be wary of any surprises freezes as tender growth will need to be protected from late spring freezes.
- If a protected environment is not available, here are some tips to increase likelihood of success:
 1. Choose a pot that is a good quality ceramic or hardened material that is frost resistant (our ceramic pots will display a sticker that mentions its frost resistance).
 2. Make sure to move the pot to an area that has less exposure to the elements. Move it to the North/East facing exposure and place it up against the house to help get radiant heat from inside the house.
 3. Surround the pot in burlap/bubble wrap to help insulate and protect from freezing temperatures.
 4. Use bark mulch around the base of the rose to provide some protection and moisture retention. Since the container is outside it will dry out much faster and will need to be watered at least once a month during the winter season.
 - For a tree rose to survive outdoors, it is crucial to protect the graft at the upper part of the tree. Wrap the crown in a substantial layer of burlap to help keep the graft alive. If we experience drastic drops in temperature or extended sub-zero temperatures the graft will more than likely not remain viable.