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Quick Facts

- Select a site in full sun with well-drained soil, free of competing tree and other shrub roots.
- Select recommended plants from a reputable nursery or mail order catalog and plant properly in good or improved soil.
- Plant in early spring and protect by covering the entire plant with loose loamy moist soil until the root system starts to function.
- Use care to see that bare-root and packed roses are not allowed to dry out before and after planting.

and a floribunda. This plant is similar in size to the hybrid tea, but they usually have more but slightly smaller blossoms.

The climbing hybrid teas and climbing grandifloras are not recommended for most areas of Colorado because most will bloom only on previous years growth. During severe winters, the previous year's growth on these climbers is damaged by cold temperatures and dessication. This results in little or no bloom or blooms of poor quality the following season. There are however, a number of repeat blooming large flowered climbers (LCL) that do well in our climate. Most of these climbers will bloom on current year growth (new wood) and have the added advantage of repeat flowering.

The term shrub rose is used very loosely here to cover roses not previously mentioned. Some of the hardiest of all roses can be found in this group. Coupled with beauty and perfume and history, the shrub rose can be a very satisfactory part of the landscape.

Selecting Plants

Roses are sold through mail order nurseries, local garden and nursery outlets and retail department and grocery stores. Generally mail order nurseries handle bare-root dormant roses. Local nurseries usually handle potted roses. Department and grocery stores may offer packaged, potted roses or both.

Most experienced rose growers prefer the bare-root dormant plant from a reputable nursery. Potted roses are a viable choice only when the nursery has used good culture in the potting and care of the plants. If a packaged rose is purchased, it should be obtained before the plant has had a chance to dry out and deteriorate on the shelf.

Roses are successfully grown in most communities in Colorado. Colorado roses exhibit some of the most vivid colors seen anywhere in the country.

The American Rose Society lists 48 different classifications for roses, but roses in Colorado can generally be said to fall into one of the following types: hybrid tea, miniature, floribunda, grandiflora, climber, polyantha and shrub.

The hybrid tea, originally a cross between a tea rose and a hybrid perpetual is the most popular garden rose. Generally they produce large blooms on long stems and are preferred for exhibition and cut flowers. Miniatures are naturally dwarf roses and are rapidly gaining in popularity. They are a good choice for potted indoor culture. Because of their hardiness, most are also excellent for outdoor use.

The first floribunda was produced from a cross between a hybrid tea and a polyantha and usually has more, but smaller blooms than their parents. They are somewhat harder than grandifloras and hybrid teas. The original grandiflora was produced from a cross between a hybrid tea

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Site Selection

The location of roses is important and a good choice would be an area that gets full sun and good air circulation. In areas where there is a problem with winds, some precaution against exposing the roses to the prevailing wind may be desirable. A good second choice would be a location that gets full sun during the early morning hours. This site might be on the east side of buildings or an area that is shaded by trees in the afternoon. Locate the plants so that they will receive a minimum of five to six hours of sunshine. The early sunshine will dry off the plants and help prevent diseases. When choosing a location, try to avoid a spot where the roses would have to compete with tree or shrub roots for water and nutrients. Good drainage could be a factor in site selection.

Planting

If selecting bare-root roses, spring planting is preferred over fall. A good planting time is six to seven weeks before the last killing spring frost.

Rose beds or planting holes should be prepared prior to receiving the roses. If bare-root and packaged plants appear dry when they are received, put them in a bucket or other container of water to soak overnight. Do not leave them in water for more than 24 hours. If planting in a previously prepared bed, dig the hole so it will accommodate the root system, usually about 18 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep. If the roses are to be planted in soil that has not been prepared in advance, the hole should be dug at least 18 inches in diameter and 12 inches deep. If the soil is compacted or needs improving, the planting hole may be dug as large as 36 inches in diameter and 18 inches deep. If the subsoil in the bottom of the planting hole or rose bed is heavy clay, it may be desirable to replace a portion of this subsoil with a good grade of peat moss or compost. The peat-moss or compost (equal in volume to 1/3 to 1/2 of the kept soil) should be thoroughly mixed with the good soil. (See Figure 1.)

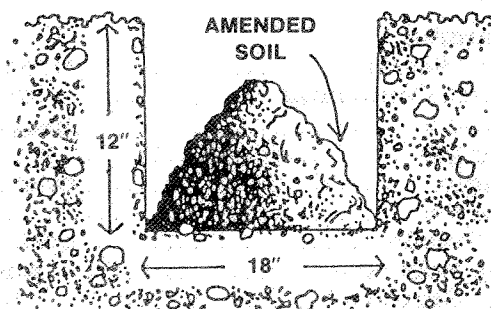


Figure 1: PREVIOUSLY PREPARED BED.

The plants should never be allowed to dry out. They may be kept in a bucket of water while the hole is being prepared. When the hole is ready, prepare the plant by pruning any damaged or

broken roots. Excessively long roots may be shortened, but leave 8 to 10 inches of healthy root if possible.

While planting, support the plant so that the bud union will be at or slightly below ground level. Do not pack the soil in around the roots; firm with your hands or let water from the hose settle the soil. It is important to water deeply at this time without puddling the soil as this tends to separate the soil components. (See Figure 2.)

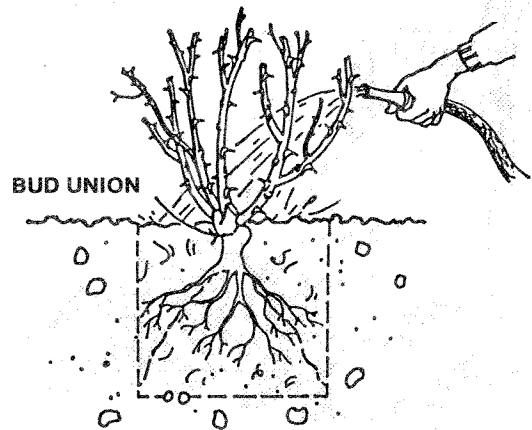


Figure 2

Since the plant was probably topped by machine, with no consideration for proper pruning, the canes should be pruned at this time. The pruning cuts should be made at a 30 to 45 degree slant, 1/4 inch above a bud eye, leaving about 6 to 8 inches of the cane. In order to keep the center of the plant open for better air circulation and light penetration, these cuts should usually be made to an outward facing bud eye. (See Figure 3.)

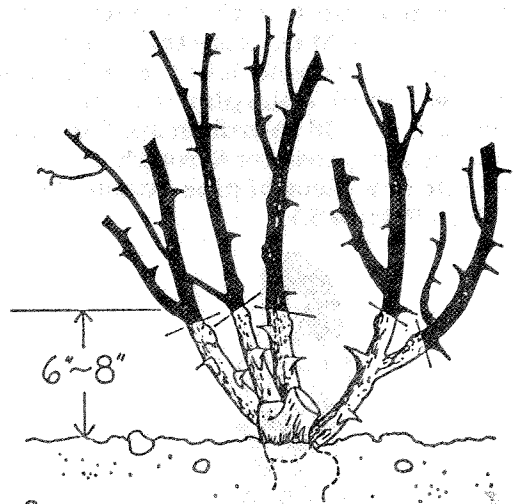


Figure 3

Next, cover the entire plant with loose, loamy, moist soil. This will keep the canes from drying out while a root system is being established and will protect the plant from possible frost damage. This cover may be left on from two to seven weeks, depending somewhat on the weather, the plant's progress and the time of planting. Watch the pro-

gress of the plant by exposing the tips of the canes. Care must be taken when removing the soil from around the canes to avoid damage to the new tender growth. Water from a garden hose may be the best way to remove this cover. Preventing the canes from drying out is probably the most important step to take when planting a bare-root rose in Colorado because of the dry climate (low humidity). (See Figure 4.)

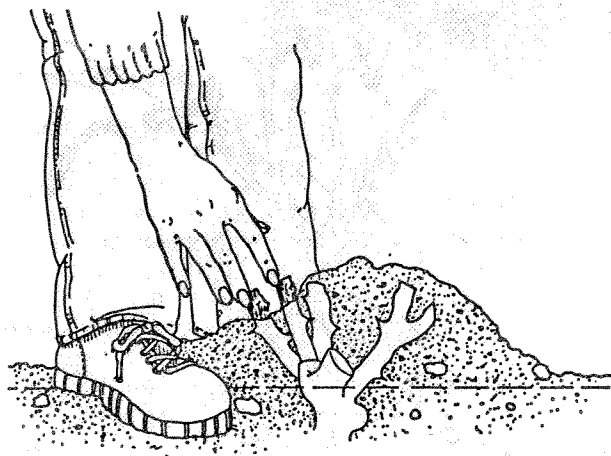


Figure 4

Potted roses can be planted during the growing season, anytime *after* the last killing frost. If planting late in the season, the plant should have time to become well established in its new location before the first killing frost of the fall season. The planting hole is prepared much the same as for bare-root roses, with the depth determined by the height of the bud union from the bottom of the container. Carefully remove the plant from the container, placing it in the hole without disturbing the root ball. Make sure the bud union is at or slightly below ground level. Fill in around the root ball with soil. If the plant roots are pot bound, the root ball should be broken up. This can be done by using water pressure through a hose attached soil needle or a piece of pipe attached to a garden hose. (See Figure 5.)



Figure 5: BREAKING UP ROOT BALL, POTTED PLANT.

Some Recommended Varieties

The following is a list of popular rose varieties known to do well in Colorado. Varieties marked with an asterisk (*) may need extra winter protection, but are listed because of other outstanding qualities.

Hybrid Teas

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Chicago Peace | pink blend |
| *Color Magic | pink blend |
| Double Delight | red blend |
| Electron | deep pink |
| First Prize | pink blend |
| *Fragrant Cloud | orange red |
| Honor | white |
| Miss All American Beauty | medium pink |
| Mister Lincoln | dark red |
| Olympiad | medium red |
| Paradise | mauve |
| Peace | yellow blend |
| Pristine | white |
| Seashell | apricot blend |
| Tiffany | pink blend |

Grandifloras

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Aquarius | pink blend |
| Arizona | orange blend |
| Gold Medal | deep yellow |
| Pink Parfait | pink blend |
| Queen Elizabeth | medium pink |
| Scarlet Knight | dark red |
| Sundowner | apricot blend |

Floribundas

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Angel Face | mauve |
| Europeana | dark red |
| First Edition | orange blend |
| *French Lace | white |
| Gene Boerner | medium pink |
| Iceberg | white |
| Ivory Fashion | white |
| Marina | orange blend |
| Sarabande | orange red |
| Sunsprite | deep yellow |

Miniatures

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Beauty Secret | medium red |
| Chattem Centennial | orange red |
| Cup Cake | medium pink |
| Dreamglo | red blend |
| Gloriglo | orange blend |
| Green Ice | white |
| Holy Toledo | apricot blend |
| Kathy Robinson | pink blend |
| Magic Carrousel | red blend |
| Minnie Pearl | light pink |
| Party Girl | yellow blend |
| Rise'n Shine | medium yellow |
| Rainbow's End | yellow blend |
| Sheri Anne | orange red |
| Snow Bride | white |
| Starina | orange red |

Climbing Miniatures

- Candy Cane red blend
- Hi Ho deep pink
- Jeanne Lajoie medium pink

Climbers, repeat blooming, large flowered

- Altissimo medium red
- America orange red
- Blaze medium red
- Don Juan dark red
- Dortmund medium red
- Galway Bay medium pink
- Golden Showers medium yellow
- Handel red blend

- Joseph's Coat red blend

Shrub roses

- Austrian Copper red blend
- Frau Dagmar Hartopp medium pink
- Golden Wings medium yellow
- Hanseat medium pink
- Harrison's Yellow deep yellow
- Madame Hardy white
- Rose de Rescht deep pink

Polyanthas

- The Fairy light pink

