

BAYER GARDEN TOPROSE INFORMATION

With a little care and attention, the many varieties of roses can provide sumptuously colourful and fragrant displays throughout the garden - whether in borders, containers or climbing up walls and decorative structures.

Types of Roses:

Hybrid Tea Roses are the most popular and recognisable group of roses.

É Bush and standard forms

É Highly fragrant

É Shapely medium to large-sized single blooms

É The 'classic' rose with one or more large flowers on a single stem

É Flowers in flushes

Floribunda Roses is the second most popular type.

É Bush and standard varieties

É Fragrant clustered blooms

É Several blooms open at one time

É Flower almost continually throughout the season

É Colourful, reliable and long-lasting

Patio Roses ó there are many varieties available.

É Low-growing (about 50cm high)

É Compact version of Floribunda

É For containers or borders with limited space

Climbing and Rambling Roses are ideal for adding height and colour to bare areas.

É Ramblers have long, pliable stems

É Climbers have stiff stems

É Ramblers bear large masses of small flowers - flowering usually only once

É Climbers bear larger blooms in smaller groups which often repeat flower

É Ramblers make excellent weeping standards

É Climbers require less maintenance

Four Rose Growth Types

É Ground cover (low growing)

É Bush (bushy growth)

É Standard (single stem with bush head)

É Climbing (high growth across vertical structures)

GROWING ADVICE

Compared with many flowers, roses are simple to grow. The following guidelines will help you to keep plants strong and healthy, leading to a profusion of colour throughout the season.

Step 1 - Before planting

Before you begin, first select the best position for your rose:

- ÉPlenty of sun
- ÉShelter from cold winds
- ÉGood drainage
- ÉPlenty of air circulation
- ÉSuitable soil

Roses do not thrive in poor soils. Before planting in beds it is worth turning the soil over to aerate it and mix in plenty of well-rotted manure. The dug over bed should be left to stand for up to 2 weeks.

Step 2 – Planting

New bare rooted roses can be planted at any time between October and the end of March.

Depending on the full grown size of the plant:

- ÉAllow at least 45cm between each plant
- ÉAllow at least 30cm between the plant and a fence or wall
- ÉDig a hole deep enough to ensure that the budding union (where the branches emerge from the stem) is just below ground level (usually 2.5cm deep). Ensure the hole is wide enough to allow the roots to spread out full (approx. 60cm across). Try laying a cane across the top of the hole to ensure the bud union is just below the ground level.
- ÉMix one handful of Bayer Garden Toprose with the soil in the bottom of the hole
- ÉSpread the roots of the plant in the hole, shake it gently up and down and then push it firmly in place with your fists. Fill the hole and firm the soil, ensuring the bud union is below soil level.
- ÉRoses purchased in containers can be planted any time of the year but the best time is either spring or autumn. Dig the hole to the height of the pot, mix a handful of Bayer Garden Toprose with the soil at the bottom, gently remove the pot and place the plant on top.

Step 3 – Feeding

Roses are notoriously hungry plants so it is essential to feed them regularly with Bio Toprose - a balanced feed of nutrients as well as trace elements. Bio Toprose is Britain's favourite rose food and has received a seal of approval from the Royal National Rose Society.

It contains:

ÉNitrogen - to promote vigorous growth

ÉPhosphorus - for healthy root development

ÉPotassium - for brilliant blooms

ÉIron and Magnesium - to guard against nutrient deficiency and prevent premature leaf drop

Feed plants during spring and repeat after first flowering. Apply Bio Toprose evenly to the ground around each rose plant, then lightly rake it into the soil. Only two applications are required for a complete season's feeding.

Step 4 – Pruning

Pruning is essential to promote vigorous growth and an abundance of colourful blooms.

ÉSpring pruning should take place during February and March, before any new growth appears

ÉDead-heading spent flowers during summer will promote continued blooms.

ÉIn autumn, prune back untidy shoots and branches, ready for the wild winter months. Using a sharp pair of secateurs, cut at a slight angle up to and just above a new bud.

The secret to successful climbers and ramblers is to train them properly. Once established, these varieties are best trained so they grow in the desired direction. Fan-train on walls and fences to encourage vertical growth. For pillars and tripods simply spiral the branches up the feature.

Pruning climbers and ramblers is easy.

In autumn, simply trim back the side shoots, leaving a short 4 - 6cm stem.

Bush roses benefit from moderate to hard pruning to encourage growth and stop branches from becoming tangled. Aim to remove just over half of the length of each stem or slightly more if the stems are weak.

Dead-heading is vital to revert the plant's energies back into new flowering shoots. When each flower is spent, look for a healthy, outward facing bud near the stem and cut just above it. The Royal National Rose Society suggests that Hybrid Tea blooms produce better repeat flowers if they are snapped off at the abscission layer ó a small swollen part of the stem, just below the flower.

Pests and Diseases

Despite their beauty, roses are prone to attack from a vast array of pests and diseases. Without treatment these invaders can cause serious disfigurement or even death. Feed plants regularly and if they suffer from any of the following symptoms, take action!

PROBLEM	CAUSE	ACTION
Stunted or distorted growth. Buds fail to open. Sticky substances on leaves	Greenfly and Blackfly	Spray with insecticide at first sign of attack and repeat every 2 weeks for as long as necessary
Leaves covered in black spots surrounded by yellow ring, leading to leaf drop	Black Spot	Spray with a fungicide at first sign of disease and repeat fortnightly to prevent further infection*
Irregular-shaped holes in leaves	Caterpillars	Spray with insecticide at first sign of attack and repeat every 2 weeks for as long as necessary
Stunted or distorted growth. Buds fail to open. Sticky substances on leaves.	Whitefly	Spray with insecticide at first sign of attack and repeat every 2 weeks for as long as necessary
Stunted or distorted growth. Buds fail to open. Sticky substances on leaves	Scale	Spray with insecticide at first sign of attack and repeat every 2 weeks for as long as necessary
White powdery coating on leaves and buds, often accompanied by distorted leaves	Mildew	Spray with a fungicide at first sign of disease and repeat fortnightly to prevent further infection*
Orange swellings on underside of leaves. Premature leaf drop	Rust	Spray with a fungicide at first sign of disease and repeat fortnightly to prevent further infection*
Discolouration and bronzing of underside of leaves. Webbing seen around plant	Red Spider Mite	Spray with insecticide at first sign of attack and repeat every 2 weeks for as long as necessary

* In bad disease areas, make an initial application when leaves emerge in early spring and repeat 1 week later, then every 2 weeks after.