

Caring for Roses

- Roses require extra care in the garden.
- Winter protection should be removed when the Forsythia bloom in the spring. This can be mid to late April.
- For most roses, prune off dead, broken or intertwined canes and any canes smaller than a pencil width. Pruning should be at a 45-degree angle.
- Begin to fertilize the roses at the end of April and continue until the middle of August. Prune spent flower heads down to an out facing leaflet with 5 leaves.
- Spray plants for blackspot and bugs every 7 – 10 days when needed.
- Stop pruning roses by the middle of August to let the roses slow down and naturally go dormant.
- Winter protection varies depending on the type of rose. Do not protect roses from winter until after 2-3 hard freezes and the ground is frozen. Rose cones can be used with holes drilled into the top for ventilation. You can also mound 10" of planting soil or topsoil around the base of each bush. If the plant is very large and has a tendency to move in the wind secure the canes together with twine to prevent damage over the winter with the canes rubbing on each other.
- With a little extra care roses can give you much enjoyment throughout the season and many years to come.