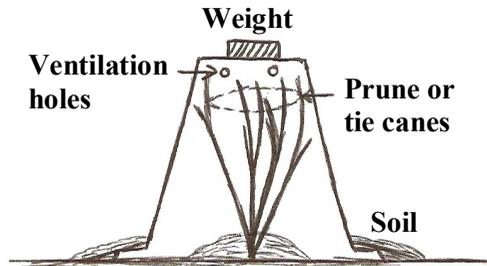


- Styrofoam rose cones can also be used. Don't cover too early and make sure cones are well ventilated - make a few holes if there are none. Heat can build up inside on warm sunny days and initiate unwanted growth. Weigh the cone down so it doesn't blow off. Mounding some soil around the crown before covering can provide a little extra protection.



- Climbers and ramblers that need extra protection can be removed from their support, laid down on the ground, and covered with 6" of soil or mulch. Alternatively, keep in place, wrap with straw held in place with twine, and cover with burlap.

Remove protection in spring after danger of a severe freeze is gone, but before new growth begins. Keep some material handy to cover plants if you do get unexpected cold weather.

### Diseases and Insects

There are a number of steps you can take to help roses resist diseases and pests. First, select disease-resistant varieties and plant them in the proper location. Provide sufficient fertilizer and water, and keep plants pruned to provide good air circulation. Remove any damaged or diseased portions of the plant, and clean up any debris that has fallen to the ground. Use chemical controls only as a last resort, and only after the problem has been accurately identified.

Roses are susceptible to a number of fungal diseases. In black spot disease, circular black spots appear on the upper surface of the leaves, starting at the bottom of the plant and moving up. Leaves then turn yellow and fall off. To help prevent, avoid wetting leaves and provide good air circulation. Powdery mildew affects young leaves on the top portion of the plant. It is more prevalent during periods of warm, dry days and cool, humid nights. Fungicides are available to treat both these diseases. Be sure to follow all label directions.

Stem canker can be caused by several fungi and produces brown sunken or shriveled areas on the canes, eventually killing the canes if not removed. Prune out affected tissue well below the diseased area. Keep plants healthy and vigorous - canker commonly occurs in plants weakened by other factors. There is no specific fungicide available, but keeping other fungal diseases under control will help protect roses from canker. Other diseases that can affect roses include botrytis blight, rose mosaic, crown gall, and rose rosette.

Many insects like to nibble on rose bushes. Often damage is only cosmetic, and will not damage the plant in the long run. Small insects, like aphids and spider mites, can be knocked off by spraying the plant with a strong stream of water. Larger insects such as Japanese beetles can be hand picked or knocked into a jar of soapy water if the population is not too large. Remove and destroy any infested plant parts and spent blooms. Insecticidal soap can sometimes be an effective alternative to stronger insecticides. Many insecticides also harm beneficial insects, and should only be used when other methods fail to provide effective control.



For more information on gardening please visit:

<http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/state/hort.html>

or

call University of Illinois Extension  
Knox County Office  
309-342-5108

Other information brochures can be found online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/hkmw/hort.html>

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# Garden Tips

## Knox County



# Caring for Roses



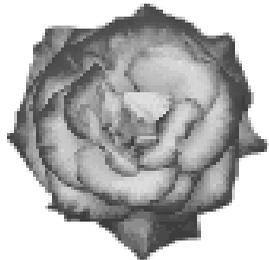
Some roses are more forgiving of neglect than others, and each rose grower may do things a little differently. However, developing a routine and giving roses a little extra attention will help plants look their best and stay healthy and vigorous from year to year.

### Water

Roses require consistent moisture and excellent drainage. The amount of moisture required will vary depending on soil type, air temperature, wind, and other factors, but a general rule of thumb is at least 1" per week, from rainfall or supplemental sources. Applying water slowly but deeply to the soil around the base of the plants, using soaker hoses or drip irrigation, is best. If overhead watering is unavoidable, do it in the morning or early afternoon to allow time for the foliage to dry. Moisture remaining on the leaves can make the plant more susceptible to some diseases.

### Mulch

Roses are shallow rooted so use care when cultivating. Adding organic mulch on top of the soil helps to retain moisture, keep soil cool, and deter weed growth. Possible materials include wood chips, straw (free of weed seeds), and shredded bark. Apply 2-3" deep, starting 6" from the base of the plant, and reapply as needed.



### Fertilizer

Most roses are heavy feeders. Vigorous plants are better able to resist pests and diseases, so fertilization is important. Adding a thin layer of compost as a mulch can also add a few nutrients.

Use special rose food or a balanced fertilizer (such as 10-10-10 or 10-15-10), applying according to label directions.

The fertilization schedule depends on the type of rose. All roses benefit from an application in early spring after pruning. A second application should be given to all types except species roses after spring bloom (usually mid-June). Fertilize repeat bloomers again in mid or late July.

Do not fertilize after August 15. Late fertilization encourages soft growth that will not harden off before winter, making the plant more vulnerable to injury.

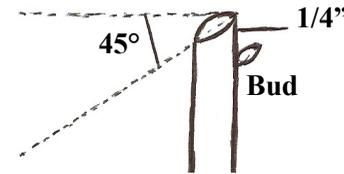
### Pruning

Pruning removes dead, damaged, or diseased wood. Removing crowded canes opens up the plant, increasing air circulation and resulting in better disease resistance and a more attractive plant. Pruning can also encourage the growth of flowering canes, and control the size and shape of large shrub roses.

Most pruning is done in the spring, removing winter damage as well as weak, crossing, or rubbing canes. Remove sucker growth on grafted roses. Dig down as far as possible to remove where it is attached to the rootstock - a high cut will just encourage regrowth. Remove damaged or diseased growth as soon as it occurs. Avoid pruning in the fall unless it is necessary for winter protection, and then only after the plant is completely dormant.

While pruning methods vary somewhat depending on the type of rose, the basic principles are the same. Always use sharp,

clean, bypass pruners. After cutting diseased plants, disinfect tools using a 10% bleach solution. Make cuts at a 45 degree angle about 1/4" above an outward facing bud.



Hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, and miniature roses produce the best flowers on new growth and can be pruned hard in early spring, as buds begin to swell and before new growth begins. Reduce the number of canes, leaving 4-8 strong, evenly-spaced canes, and reduce the height of the canes by 1/2 to 2/3.

Leave modern shrub roses unpruned the first 2-3 years except for removing damaged or diseased wood. After that remove 1/3 of the oldest canes at the ground each year, and prune to shape.

Once-blooming Old Garden Roses can be shaped after spring bloom. Treat repeat bloomers as you would modern shrub roses.

Leave ramblers and climbers a few seasons before pruning. Completely remove old canes on ramblers after spring bloom. Prune repeat blooming climbers in early spring, leaving 2-4 main canes and cutting back side shoots to 2-4 strong buds. Training main canes to grow more horizontally along the support encourages the growth of bloom-producing side shoots, resulting in heavier flowering.

Pruning also includes cutting flowers and deadheading. Removing spent blooms conserves the plant's energy and encourages more bloom. Leave at least two five-leaflet leaves on each cane. You may want to limit cutting foliage on new or weak plants, as it is needed to help the plant establish or recover. Avoid cutting after October 1 to allow the plant to harden off.

### Winter Protection

Tolerance to cold varies by type and variety. Many Old Garden Roses and modern shrub roses are extremely hardy and may need no winter protection other than a light mulch. Planting vulnerable varieties in a protected location can also help. Grafted roses are more susceptible to winter injury than own-root roses.

The goal of winter protection is to keep the plant uniformly cold to prevent freeze-thaw cycles. Be sure plants are completely dormant before covering - wait for a hard killing freeze or several nights with temperatures in the teens. Remove foliage and debris around plants that can harbor disease and insects. Tall roses may need minor pruning to reduce height. Canes can be tied together to reduce wind damage and make the plant more manageable. Keep plants well watered until the ground freezes.

A few options for winter protection include:

- Pile loose well-drained soil or soil/compost mix around the plant to a height of 10-12". Take soil from another part of the garden - don't remove soil from around the rose bushes and expose the roots to damage. After this soil mound has frozen, cover with straw or evergreen boughs to insulate. Don't use anything that holds too much moisture - wet conditions in winter can do as much damage as cold. You can place an 18" high cylinder of hardware cloth around the plant to help hold the soil in place.

