

Rose Presentation 6.13.12

Reduce maintenance/care by choosing the right site for roses

Plan before you plant Is it a climber, ground cover, shrub or “hybrid tea rose-long-stem rose”. Grandiflora roses should be treated like hybrid tea roses.

In Florida, most roses need a minimum of at least 3 feet on center between each shrub. Climbers need trellises or something to guide them. Roses need airflow to reduce maintenance and care of blackspot and fungus. Allow room for airflow and room for pruning between roses.

Light – minimum of 6 hours sunlight or more, preferably starting with morning sun to dry leaves early, reduces blackspot/fungus on leaves-more later.

Site and Soil – Loose well drained soil. pH between 5.8 pH and 6.8 pH, prefer slightly more acidic soil than alkaline. Test soil and well water too. Bring in samples to Lindley’s we courier to AG Center-Deland.

Organic matter for the life of your ROSE! Best results come from adding organic matter to the soil for the life of your rose. Coffee grounds, banana peels, egg shells, pine bark, pine straw, compost your own or can be purchased. Amending the soil with organic matter is just part of fertilizing. Roses do need a regular fertilizer as the new growth begins and just after the blooming stops. Espoma brands amend soil while fertilizing the plant.

Plant high it won’t die, plant low it won’t grow!

Roses make excellent container plants!

Proper pruning and cleaning debris Pruning roses is critical to long term health.

Cutting roses to enjoy in a vase is only part of the pruning. They also need to be pruned 50% in spring and 30% in mid-September. This includes removing buds and any existing flowers at that time. Pruning is essential to growing healthy Florida roses. Make sure to prune so that you open up the center of the bush. This will create maximum air circulation, then shape to your liking.

After you are done pruning, make sure to clean up any old rose bush leaf debris. Do not compost this put it in the trash. Any blackspot or fungus on the leaves can re-infect the rose bush.

Pests, diseases and prevention If problems arise, turn first to natural and non-chemical intervention. The coffee grounds you use to fertilize your roses are also good bug repellents.

Using drip irrigation or ground watering vs. overhead will also reduce problems.

Neem oil or 2 in 1 systemic insect and disease control.