

NAGPUR GARDEN CLUB

GUIDE ON GROWING ROSES

The rose has been on this earth for many million of years. It has been the symbol of dignity, love and affection but only recently has it been accepted as the queen of garden flowers. This has been due to magnificent work of the. Plant breeder One hundred and fifty years of hybridization has given us perfect budding roses with breath taking new colour and vigorous growth.

1) Rose planting:

The design layout of a garden is always personal choice. Carefully choose the site, planning of the beds and spacing between the beds and the plants. The roses require plenty of sunlight and air. They should be planted well away from tall and leafy trees. (They should be sheltered from strong North East winds). The subsoil should be free draining. A site which is South facing is ideal for roses. Roses may be planted in formal' beds of 8 ft. by 6ft. by 4 ft. Always keep the tall growing in plants at the back of the bed. Clay soil has to be made friable by lining and the addition of sand and manure (compost). Sandy soil has to be enriched by the addition of liberal compost (manure). H.T. Roses and Floribundas should be planted at a distance of 3 ft. to 4 ft. Climbers are planted at a distance of 6 ft, Miniatures are planted at a distance of 1ft. Prepare the bed by digging upto a depth of 2 ft. and spread gravel at the bottom of the pit. Fill in with 6" layer of a mixture of compost manure and bone meal in the proportion of 5 in 1. Top up with the soil and allow the ground to settle for about three weeks before planting. The planting hole must be large enough to allow the roots to be spread out without cramping. Bud union should be 1" above sand level, After spreading the roots evenly, work fine -soil around them, shaking the plant gently up and down and then finishing the soil with our fists. Gradually more soil is added and by gentle treading is filled- up to ground level.

2) Choosing the right varieties:

Always consult your fellow rose grower and draw upon his experience in choosing the different varieties. Remember to order them from a reputable rose nursery who will always send you healthy plants.

3) Feeding of roses:

Roses make heavy demands on reserve of plant food in the soil. A layer of compost manure of cow dung, manure of leaf mould is spread on the soil

around the plant is known as mulch. Mulching is done once in October and then in January. Extra plant foods are supplied by using a compound fertilizer mixture containing Nitrogen, Phosphates and potash which is given once a month in the flowering period. Most of these preparations have trace elements like calcium, magnesium, iron, boron and manganese which are essential for the growth of the plants. A new development of great interest is foliar feeding. This is used to supplement and not replace ordinary soil feeding and has the advantage of supplying plant foods to the plant within a few hours. A table spoonful of a mixture of Urea 3 parts, Ammonia Diphosphate 2 parts and potassium nitrate 1 part, in a gallon of water is sprayed on both the stems and leaves of a plant. The treatment can be repeated at fortnightly intervals, another advantage is that it can be mixed with pesticides and sprayed on the plants. Hoeing upto two inches of the soil is done once in 15 days to remove the weeds and to break up the top soil.

4) Watering of roses

The roses has a deep rooting habit of growth. Hence plants in the soil need deep watering once or twice a week according to the weather conditions and also to help the roots go deeper. Plants in pots require more-frequent watering and also frequent feeding. In summer pots require daily watering.

5) Pests on roses

- i. Green fly (Aphids) are minute, round tight green-insects, which attack tender shoots, buds, flower and the under surface of leaves. Use spray of contact poisons - Folidol, Endrine, Malathion tea spoonful to a gallon of water.
- ii. Thripes - are minute four winged flies which swarm over the foliage, shoots, buds, and leaves. Use contact poison as folidol, D.D.T., gamaxine.
- iii. Mites -They are small reddish insects which cause bronzing on the upper surface of the leaf and fine webbing of the underside of the leaf. Spray with wettable sulphur, malathion.
- iv. Red Scale - Reddish brown scale affects the old lower stems and then new tender shoots. Rub the stems with a brush dipped in methaylated spirit, Folidol. Burn infected and dried branches.
- v. Stem barer saw fly - A green maggot within the pith of the affected shoot or branch. Cut off the stem and burn it. Spray D.D.T. as a preventive measure.

- vi. Leaf Rolling Saw fly: Leaves are tightly rolled and inside the leaf is a grayish green grub. Squeeze rolled leaf between thumb and finger, then pick off and burn.
- vii. Chafer Grub are fat, curved, grubs over 1" long seen near the roots. They eat up the roots and cause weakening of the plant. Dig them up and destroy manually. Apply chlorodane, 2 to 3 tea spoonful in five liters of water to the ground around the plant

6) Diseases of roses

- i. Mildew is a disease caused by fungus. It affects the leaves, stems and buds which look as if they have been dusted with flour. The leaves fall off prematurely. Collect fallen leaves, cut off affected stems and burn them. Spray the plants with sulphur and fungicide as bilitox.
- ii. Die Back is not a specific disease. It can be due to damage to the stem, Cankar at the base of the stem, water logging, Mildew or rust. Deficiency of potash, calcium, phosphate and-boron may also cause this. Shoots die back, starting at the tip and gradually progressing down the shoot. A preventive measure is to see that the plants are properly fed. Cut off the affected shoot at a bud below the dead area and spray with copper fungicide or sulphur.

7) Pruning of Roses

The purpose of pruning is to get rid of old wood every year and to encourage the development of new strong and healthy stems: Pruning may be mild, moderate and hard. Hard pruning is done for getting exhibition blooms when competing in a flower show. Moderate pruning is best and serves all purposes.

- i. Cut out completely all dead wood and stems which are diseased and damaged.
- ii. Cut out all thin and weak stems. Remove in-growing branches. so that, the center at the plant is open to air and sunlight.
- iii. Cut out all unripe stems. Try to scrap several thorns. If they bend or tear off instead of breaking cleanly, the wood is too soft to be of any use.
- iv. Only healthy and ripe stems now, remain. Cut them down to about half the length of the previous year's growth.
- v. Pruning is done generally in the first or second week of October. Judicious pruning means removal of dead lowers, thinning of shoots and removal of in growing branches and is an all the year round programme.
- vi. Remove suckers and when they grow. These are stems which arise from the under stock of Grafted or budded rose. If not removed; they affect the growth of the grafted or budded rose.

- vii. Regular removal of dead blooms is important because it encourages a regular succession, of strong flowering shoots.

8) Propagation :

Roses are propagated by cutting, grafting and budding. Budding is the most common way roses are propagated.

9) Learning about roses:

New developments are always taking place in the rose world, Each year new varieties are being introduced and some of these are going to be another step forward in the search for perfection of the rose plant and rose flower. New techniques of feeding roses and revolutionary pest killers are coming up each year. It is in this context that one should join the Indian National Rose Society and also become a member at your local garden club. There you meet fellow rose growers and get the help of knowledge and guidance. Reading books and journals on roses will give you information on cultivation, new developments and a list of latest varieties of roses that may be available in the near future. Always visit the flower shows and rose shows. Here you see for yourself the beauty, colour etc. of the new and old varieties and what experts judge to be the perfect form. With this information, you are in a position to order new roses for the next season and enlarge your collection of roses.

In this life of stress and strain every person needs to have a hobby to relax and release the tension of daily life. There can be no better hobby than rose growing which gives pleasure, relaxation and regard you with beautiful flowers. As Andrew Long has aptly summed;

"I'd leave all the hurry, the noise and the fray, for a house full of books, and a garden full of flowers".

How are Roses judged?

Blooms	-	Good sized for the variety 1/2 to 3/4 open in a systematical
Outline	-	perfectly shaped.
Centers	-	High centered, well-formed and tight.
Petals	-	Fresh Clean blemish free
Leaves	-	Good sized, blemish free
Stems	-	Strong, straight, no scars

10) Classification of Roses:

They are broadly classified under the following groups.

- i. **Hybrid Tea (H.T.)** : A variety which is most popular and which bears double well shaped flowers borne singly or in small groups, Though they flower less, they are very beautiful and are grown both for budding and exhibition.

Easy to grow varieties - For beginners and in poor soil gardens, super star, Christian Dior, Granada, Mischief, Gold Glow, Summer Sunshine, Pascali, Rose, Gaujar, Peace, Montazuma, Confidence.

Exhibition varieties - Royal Highness, Peace, Superstar, Christian Dior, Fragrant Cloud, Tzigane, First Prize, Papa Meilland, Mr. Lincoln, Maria, callas, Garden Party, Chicago, Peace, Kronenburgh, Grand Mare Jenny, Perfumed varieties - Wendy Cussion, Chrysler Imperial, Crimson Glory, Papa Mailland, Sterling. Silver, Blue Moon, Fragrant Cloud, Inge Horstman, Confidence; Sutter's Gold, Prima Billerina.

- ii. **Floribunda - (Floral)**- A variety which bears flowers in large clusters or trusses. Many blooms open at the same time in each truss. In general, flower form is inferior to that of the Hybrid Tea. Floribundas, give: maximum flowers with minimum attention. They are more colourful, bloom continuously and provide a large splash of colour in the garden.

Varieties - Iceberg, Zorina, Europeana, Dearest, Pink Parfait, LilliMartene, Angel Face, City of Belfast, Elizabeth of Glamis Nordia, Axure, Sahara, Roman Holiday, Saratogu, Samba, Violet Carson, Vichitra, Spartan.

- iii. **Floribunda - H.T. - Type** - The latest advance on the Floribunda group, which combines the best qualities of both the Floribunda and H.T. group resulting in flowers of perfect form borne in clusters and also singly on long stems, are also called Grandiffara.

Varieties -Queen Elizabeth; Diamond, Sea Pearl, Camelot, John S. Armstrong, Lucky Lady, Mount Shastra, Ole, Queen Fabiola, Floriade, Golden Girl, Miss France, Baccaneer, Stalia.

- iv. **Miniature - (Mini)** - These roses are used for edging and as pot plants. They do not grow to more than two feet, have miniature flowers, tiny thorns, stems and they are also called Fairy roses. They are grown in pots, window boxes, rockeries and rose beds as border plants.

Varieties - Scarlet Gem, Baby Masquerade, Yellow Doll, Rosina, Little Sunset, Dwarf King, Silver Tups, Calibri Paurti.

- v. **Climbers** -- A variety with long pliable stems and large flowers borne, singly or in cluster. The modern climbers are mostly climb in hybrid teas and climbing floribundas and are natural freak turns or sports of H.T. and bush floribundas. They are suitable for covering arches, pergolas, screens. They produce more flowers, if the side growths are trained horizontally. They take about a year to get established and as such do not flower well in the first year.

Varieties - Peace, Crimson Glory, Golden Showers, Queen Elizabeth, Ena Narknass, All Gold, Confidence, Garden Party, Handel, The Doctor.