

Pests and Diseases

Strong healthy roses suffer far less than "stressed out" ones. Appropriate pruning, feeding and watering on top of good soil preparation prior to planting will help reduce the effects of pests and diseases.

At the first sign of any problems spray with a systemic treatment (these are absorbed by the plant) e.g. Rose Clear or Multirose. Use according to instructions. Either will control all the problems listed. Individual products can be used for fungal diseases or pests but if the combined method products are used other potential problems will be prevented.

All of the diseases can overwinter on fallen leaves and spread by rain splash and the wind.

- Remove and pick up any affected leaves and dispose of them, do not put them in the compost heap.
- Prune in spring to remove affected stems to reduce the risk of infection.
- Plant in a sunny spot
- Water during the summer and mulch around the roots to keep the soil moist.

Aphid (Greenfly)

Are found on shoot tips and flower buds in spring. They suck the sap, weakening the plant and damaging new growth. Aphids excrete honeydew which can lead to sooty mould and can carry viruses and fungal diseases. Either wash off or spray with a systemic treatment at the first sign in spring.

Sawfly

The larvae are caterpillar-like insects that can quickly defoliate an entire plant in a few days. Watch out for skeletonised leaves and spray at the first sign.

Black spot

This is a common fungal disease that causes unsightly black spots on leaves with yellow edges. Eventually affected leaves fall and die-back can follow. It produces spores that are spread by rain splash so is most common in warm wet conditions.

Mildew

Another common fungal disease that produces white powdery mould on leaves, stems and buds. The leaves curl and can drop. It is most common in confined spaces and dry soil conditions.

Rust

A less common fungal disease that appears as bright orange pustules on leaf stalks, branches and undersides of leaves.

If you require any further information, please ask our outdoor plant advisors who will be very happy to help.

Opening Times

Monday – Saturday: 9am – 6pm
Sunday: 9.30am – 4pm

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 Chessington

Rose Care



Care & Advice Sheet

No. 21

Inspiration for your Home & Garden

Roses are one of the nations favourite flowers. Nothing can beat the amazing array of colours and scents of these lovely flowers.

With the right conditions and treatment, they will reward you for many years.

Types

Bush

Hybrid tea. Medium to large single elegant flowers on long stems. Many are fragrant and some repeat flower.

Floribunda. Small to medium multiple flowers in large groups. Most repeat flower continually through the summer. Rarely fragrant but easier to care for than a hybrid tea.

Standard. Bush roses grafted on to a stem, raising the flowers up from the ground. These need a bamboo cane to support the stem when new.

Shrub Rose

These are large vigorous shrubs that usually bloom only once and come from a wide group of species roses that are often good for informal hedging e.g. 'Canary Bird', 'Rosa mundi', 'Rosa rugosa'.

English Rose

Hybrid roses bred by David Austin. Compact bushes with good fragrance, wide range of colours, repeat flowering and disease resistant. The flowers are generally cup shaped or rosette with numerous small petals.

Patio

Compact floribunda bush roses or small climbers suitable for containers or the front of a border. Repeat flowering with bushy growth.

Ground Cover

Low growing spreading, with an arching or creeping habit. They have a profusion of small flowers throughout the summer into autumn.

Climbers

Large single flowers or smaller clustered flowers on a frame- work of mature stiff stems.

Ramblers

Very vigorous with long pliable stems that have huge trusses of small flowers usually only flowering once a year on new wood. Vigorous and good for growing through trees.

Care

Planting

To flower well roses need plenty of sun although they will still flower if they are in partial shade for part of the day.

Dig a hole at least twice as big as the container. Add lots of compost and incorporate into the soil. Carefully knock the rose out of its container, place in the planting hole and add mycorrhizal fungi (Rootgrow) by sprinkling it on the roots. This will help the rose to establish as it increases the root area that supplies the plant with water and nutrients. Backfill with a mixture of soil and compost taking care to keep the soil at the same level as it was in the container. Firm in well.

Feeding

Apply a small handful of rose fertiliser in March and again in June or July, hoe in lightly. Top up with a liquid feed from April through out the summer.

Dead heading

Remove faded flowers from from repeat flowering varieties to channel the plant's energy into producing more flowers.

Pruning

Always use a clean and sharp pair of secateurs to prevent introducing disease and to stop crush damage to the stems. Cut just above an outward facing bud. For tall plants light prune (up to a third) in late autumn to reduce damage over the winter.

The main pruning time is spring (mid/late March), if you do it too early new growth can be damaged by late frosts weakening the plant.

Bush

Hard prune new plants at planting time to 12-15cm (5"). Remove any diseased, damaged or crossing branches. Reduce thin shoots to 8cm (3") and thicker ones to 12cm (5").

Patio, Shrub and English

Remove dead and weak growth, trim to shape.

Climbers

Remove any dead, old or weak stems and damaged tips. Shorten side branches to 5-6cm (2") that flowered in the summer. Tie in new shoots laying them horizontally to make a fan shape.

Ramblers

Remove stems that flowered in the previous year. Shorten the side shoots to 8 cm (3"). Tie in new shoots that have grown from the base.