



Your guide to great roses

Roses are the most loved and versatile garden plants in the world. Their history is astounding with fossil evidence dating back 35 million years of their existence.

The *Rosa* genus is native to Asia, North America, and Europe, though the version we know today probably came from China, where it was likely first cultivated.

Roses were grown extensively across the Middle East and Europe during Roman times, and in 1485, Henry VII declared the rose to be England's national flower.

There are now thousands of modern hybrids whose fragrance is often delightful with perfect petals unmatched by any other flower. The colour range is astounding with hues of every colour except the elusive blue. They come in a variety of forms, from groundcovers to climbers. Single-flowered roses are a great source of food for pollinating insects.

Roses are surprisingly easy to grow but there is a difference between growing roses and growing really great roses. Getting the best from your roses starts at the beginning, with choosing the right varieties, a sunny situation, and planting them with the best possible care. Then simply provide the water, food and protection they need and your roses will reward you with beautiful blooms. There really is a rose, or three, for every garden.

As your local garden centre, we can help you plan, plant, and nurture for success so you can appreciate the joy of growing roses in your garden.



Find more ican products and advice at your
local ican retailer – see page 8.



Floribunda rose Champagne Breakfast

A rose for every garden

Roses are one of the broadest groups of plants, with lots of different types that can confuse new and experienced gardeners alike. Each type has its benefits, so it's easy to find roses to grow in different spots. Here are the most popular types of roses grown today.

Old-fashioned garden roses are the ancestors of today's modern roses and are still grown for their delicate beauty and delicious perfume. They are a diverse group with blooms ranging from single to fully-double blooms, often white through pink to deep reds and purples. They can be climbers or shrubs, sometimes only flower once and many produce colourful hips. Varieties include rugosa, china, alba, damask, gallica and musk roses.

Modern roses include hybrid tea, floribunda, English (David Austin), climbing & rambling, groundcover, polyantha, and miniature, which are the mainstays of today's modern rose range.



Hybrid tea rose Loving Memory



English rose Boscobel

Hybrid tea roses have a bushy upright habit and large perfectly formed blooms on long stems, prized for cut flowers. They are repeat flowering and there is an extensive range of colours with many boasting a delightful fragrance. 'Loving Memory' is a perfect example of a hybrid tea.

Floribunda roses bear large clusters of flowers on strong stems, that repeat continuously from spring to autumn. The blossoms are smaller than hybrid teas but in such abundance they are just as, if not more, showy. A kaleidoscope of colours and often fragrant add to their appeal. 'Iceberg' is a popular floribunda.

English (David Austin) **roses** combine the rosette look and perfume of old-fashioned roses with the repeat flowering habit and colours of modern roses. Breeder, David Austin, has released over 200 varieties in the past 50 years, many of them receiving awards. 'Graham Thomas' and 'Mary Rose' are popular English roses.

Climbing and rambling roses cannot support themselves like vines but produce long stems that can be trained along fences and walls or over an archway. They offer a range of colours, mostly with large flowers and almost always are repeat bloomers. 'Dublin Bay' is a popular climber and 'Albertine' a Rambler.

Groundcover roses, of which the Flower Carpet series are the best known, are usually wider than they are tall in growth. The flowers tend to be more single-petalled, and they are repeat flowering and easy to manage.

Polyantha roses are a small group which includes 'The Fairy' and 'Cecile Brunner'. They bloom prolifically from spring to autumn, with clusters of small flowers. They are hardy and ideal for small gardens and containers.

Miniature roses are true roses that have been bred to stay small. Not so popular now, they still have a place as container plants, both indoor and out, and in small gardens as border plants. There is a great range of colours and they repeat bloom.

In addition to these rose types, you'll also hear of standard, weeping standard and pillar roses. These are roses that may be any of the above types that have been grown on tall stems to create a form that is useful as features in the garden. Standards look good planted down driveways or along fences, especially when underplanted with colourful perennial plants. 'Iceberg' has been the most popular standard rose for many years. Pillar roses are great for covering a post or pergola.

Ask our team in store for the best roses to suit your garden and situation.



How to plant a bare root rose, step 1



step 2



step 3



TIP: Soak the roots of new plants in a bucket of water mixed with a seaweed based liquid fertiliser prior to planting.

Credit: Matthews Nurseries Ltd

Getting started

Decide how you want to use roses in your garden. Are you wanting a formal look or a natural appearance? Are the roses serving a purpose such as covering a wall or enhancing an entrance? You may prefer roses in a certain colour palette. It's easy to be inspired by the many online sources and books.

The right spot makes all the difference

Most often when considering where to plant a rose, the soil, sun and shelter are deemed the most important. These are important factors to consider but roses should be planted where you can enjoy their beauty and fragrance the most. That might be where they are visible through windows, at the entrance way to the house, or along the front fence of your garden.

Roses do love sun although a little afternoon shade is fine. Choose a site that is sheltered from strong winds but not too close to other trees and shrubs which will compete with them for light, moisture and food.

Good soil grows great roses

Your roses will be with you for many years so investing time, energy and a little money into creating good soil, pays off. Roses will tolerate a range of soils so long as it is moist, free draining and nutritious. Sandy soils can be enriched annually with compost, clay soils provide nutrients but will need the addition of compost and gypsum to improve drainage.

New roses arrive in garden centres from June to December, but before you purchase, prepare your planting site with deep digging, adding plenty of rich compost (we recommend **ican Premium Compost**). Sheep pellets are also a good addition.

Buy the best

Roses are a long-term investment in flowers and fragrance, so choose only quality plants from reputable garden centres. Choose your bushes carefully to get those that have 3 or more strong, undamaged canes. Keep them well watered until you can plant them.

Note, new rose bushes have not been pruned correctly, but are mechanically trimmed for ease of handling and transportation. Prune each branch near the top, just above a bud. If you're not sure how, ask a garden centre team member to correctly prune your bushes before you purchase them.

Get the planting right

Don't worry if you didn't manage to prepare a planting spot before purchasing. You can give your roses a good start by digging a hole that is large enough so the roots are not squashed or bent, and mixing compost with the soil to enrich it. This is the one chance to add a slow-release fertiliser underneath the bush by sprinkling in a handful of **ican Slow Food**.

Trim any damaged roots with secateurs. Position the plant in the hole with the crown (bud union) sitting at ground level (step 1). This is most likely the same level as it was in the pot when purchased. Fill the hole with soil, filling the gaps between the roots to remove any air pockets and firm in with your boots (step 2).

Later in the season, roses in pots will have developed new roots and are ready to transplant. Plant these roses without disturbing the roots, into a planting hole prepared and fertilised as above.

Your new roses need plenty of water. Apply a full 10L bucket of water after planting (step 3), and again every day for the next week.

Rose care calendar

JUNE New roses arrive in store. This is traditionally the best time to select and plant new roses in your garden.

- Prepare new planting sites with compost and ican slow-release fertiliser.
- Do not plant new roses where old roses have been unless you can fully replace the old soil with new.
- Avoid the use of any fast acting fertilisers on established plants until September.
- Make sure all new plants are kept well-watered, especially if there is little rain.
- Remove all dead and diseased leaves from your roses and spray the plants and the bare soil with lime sulphur.
- Don't be tempted to prune this month—July and August are better.
- Prepare your tools for next month's pruning. Ensure you have clean sharp secateurs, loppers or a saw, and a small wire brush.

JULY It's rose pruning time except in cold climates where August is better.

- If you are unsure how to prune, there will be rose pruning demonstrations available.
- Take your time! If you have a lot of roses, start with the climbers, getting the big jobs done first, then move onto the bush roses.
- Tie back the pruned canes of climbers to their support.
- Remove all leaves and prunings.
- Mix a combination spray of Grosafe FreeFlo Copper and Enspray99 oil. Spray all pruned plants, focusing on the pruning cuts, and the surrounding bare soil.
- Rose planting can continue.

AUGUST Complete rose pruning in all regions.

- Continue planting new roses.
- Apply mulch this month before new season's shoots form that could be broken off in the process. A mulch of compost will supply nutrients, retain soil moisture and suppress weeds.
- Replace the top 10cm of potting mix of roses grown in pots with fresh mix and add a handful of ican Slow Food.

SEPTEMBER Your roses will be showing signs of new growth.

- Continue planting new roses.
- Feed with a rose food high in potassium e.g. Novatec, to support the growth of new shoots and formation of buds.
- Keep your roses well-watered but not sodden.
- Look for signs of aphids and disease. Take steps to control these early.
- Standard roses and climbers should be tied securely to their supports.

OCTOBER Your roses will be flourishing with new leaves and buds.

- Continue planting new roses.
- If you didn't feed your roses last month, do it now.
- Keep on top of watering so plants don't dry out. Early morning is the best time.
- Aphids and disease may be present. Take steps to control them with regular spraying.

NOVEMBER Instant colour! All your roses will be in full bloom this month.

- Continue planting new roses.
- Liquid feed your roses every two weeks with a food high in potassium, especially those in containers.
- Keep on top of watering so plants don't dry out. Early morning is the best time.
- Aphids and disease may be present. Take steps to control them with regular spraying.
- Dead heading begins in earnest.



DECEMBER Take time out to enjoy the display! But...

- Water daily.
- Dead head weekly.
- Liquid feed fortnightly.
- Spray monthly.
- Continue planting new roses.

JANUARY The first flush of flowers will be finished.

- Summer prune your roses which will reinvigorate them into new growth and flowers. Trim off about 30% of the overall growth, back to strong buds, and remove spindly and dead branches.
- Feed with a rose food high in potassium e.g. Novatec, to support the growth of new shoots and formation of buds.
- Give your roses growing in pots a handful of ican Slow Food.
- Renew the layer of mulch with fresh.
- Continue with regular watering.
- Continue with your pest and disease control.

FEBRUARY Wedding season. If you summer pruned your roses 6 to 7 weeks ago, they will be perfect now.

- Continue with regular watering, liquid feeding and dead heading.
- Once-flowering roses (often the old-fashioned type) need pruning unless you grow them for the hips. They will have produced lots of new shoots which hold next year's flowers. Thin these out, leaving the strongest. Repeat this process with climbing and rambling roses and secure the canes to their support structure.
- Continue with your pest and disease control.

MARCH The first hints of autumn. Continue to care for your roses to get the last flush of flowers.

- Continue with regular watering, liquid feeding and dead heading.
- Basal or water shoots grow from the crown of your plant and are new flowering wood. They are easily damaged so tie them gently to the mature stems of the bush until they have hardened.
- Continue with your pest and disease control.

APRIL Be tidy. Many leaves on your rose bushes will be diseased with mildew and spots, despite your best efforts at control.

- Collect and remove diseased leaves.
- Reduce watering and stop liquid feeding.
- Stop deadheading by the end of the month.
- Apply a handful of sulphate of potash to each rose to encourage new growth to harden.
- Time to choose a new rose or three—new rose catalogues are available this month. Place an order to secure your selection.

MAY Prepare for winter planting and pruning.

- Collect and remove diseased leaves.
- Remove any non-performing roses. If you are replanting roses in the same spot, also remove a good wheelbarrow of soil and replace with new.
- Prepare new planting sites by deep digging and mixing in compost.
- Spray your roses and the soil around them with a solution of lime sulphur which is a good clean-up spray against pests, diseases, and lichen. Lime sulphur will also encourage leaf-drop and dormancy.





Standard iceberg



Old-fashioned rambler Albertine

Grow great roses

Coaxing roses to produce a spectacular floral display is easy if you follow a few simple rules.

1 Feed

The base fertiliser used at planting time will provide your roses with the food necessary for a healthy start and prolonged growth. As your roses grow and bloom, supplement this with a granular rose food after the first flush of flowers and again late-summer. Liquid foods can be applied every six weeks for even better blooms and plant health.

2 Water

Regular deep watering is essential for happy healthy roses. A good soak with the hose once or twice a week is more beneficial than a sprinkling every day. Deep watering encourages roots to search for moisture down away from the surface, where they can dry and burn. Watering with a solution of **ican Fast Food** is doubly beneficial.

3 Weed

Weeds will compete with your roses for water and food, and if left to get out of hand, may end up competing for light as well. Hand weeding is best as roses are sensitive to herbicides which may cause deformed growth and death.

4 Mulch

Mulching is the process of adding a layer of organic matter to the soil and when applied to the correct depth (3-5cm), assists with retaining moisture in the soil and suppressing weeds. Pea straw is perfect but not always easy to procure. Compost and bark mixes make good mulch and are readily available. Bark can deplete the soil of nitrogen as it breaks down. Remedy this with a good dressing of **ican Real Blood and Bone** twice during the growing season. Keep any mulch 10cm clear of your roses' stems to prevent rotting.

5 Support

Bush roses, if planted correctly, need little or no support. Climbing, rambling and pillar roses will need to be tied to a supporting structure.

Standard roses will need a stake or two to prevent them rocking and potentially snapping in the wind, even when mature. Decorative rose supports are available to make your tall roses even more appealing.

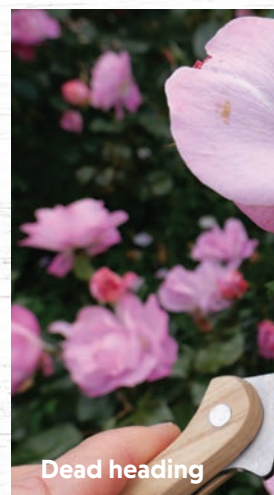
6 Deadhead

Dead-heading is the process of trimming off spent flowers and when done regularly will keep the bush tidy and promote more blooms. If old flowers are left, hips (seed pods) will form which discourages the rose from producing more blooms. (That said, some once-flowering roses are best left for the hips to form which are enjoyed in summer and autumn.)

Where a rose flowers in clusters, trim off each flower in the cluster as its petals begin to fall. This will keep the display looking good while the rest of the buds open. When all the flowers in a cluster have finished, remove the whole flowerhead and about 15cm of stem, cutting just above a strong outward facing leaf node. Your next flower shoot will grow from that leaf joint.

Roses that have just one flower per stem should also be pruned down to a strong outward facing bud after flowering.

Stop deadheading in late autumn so your rose knows the season of blooming is over and it can decline into dormancy for winter.



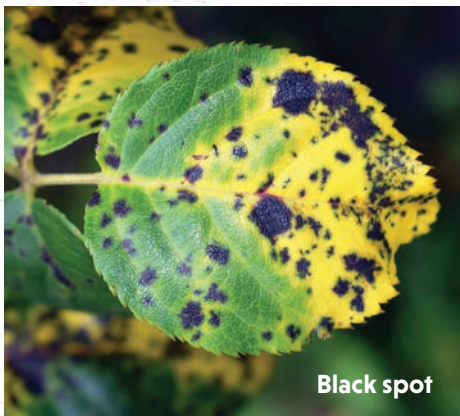
Dead heading



Potted roses



Aphids



Black spot

7 Control pests and diseases

Roses that are kept healthy with plenty of sunlight, water and food will have fewer problems with pests and diseases. But it is inevitable that these problems will still occur. Many modern roses have been bred for disease resistance so where possible choose these varieties over others.

The most common problems are aphids, black spot, rust, and powdery mildew.

Aphids will multiply quickly but are easily controlled by several methods – digital control (squash them with your gloved fingers!), blast them off with a hose (short term relief), spray with a soapy solution (also short term), and insecticides which may be organic or not, your choice.

Black spot, rust, and powdery mildew are all fungal diseases that are dormant during winter but proliferate as the season warms. The best start to control is to remove any diseased leaves during autumn and winter (do not compost – burn or bin) and spray the plants and soil with lime sulphur followed by copper sprays during winter (see 'Winter care & pruning'). During the growing season, proprietary fungicides, sprayed every 3 to 4 weeks will maintain control.

TIPS:

- A handful of lime is beneficial when applied to each established rose bush in winter.
- In spring, sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salts (magnesium sulphate) around the base of each bush for an extra boost.
- To help minimise disease, water roses in the morning and water around the base of the plant rather than over the foliage.
- If you have a special event coming, it is possible to trim roses back to get them blooming just at the right time – usually allow 6 to 7 weeks.



Roses in pots

Many roses grow well in pots so this is a great option when you have little space, poor soil, or want to decorate a patio or entrance.

- 1 Choose a pot that will suit the size of your rose and has good drainage holes. Bush and shrub roses will require pots at least 450mm wide and deep. Position the pot in a sunny location, raised on pot feet to assist drainage.
- 2 Use only the best quality potting mix—we recommend **ican Premium Potting Mix**. Fill the pot, leaving a hole to accommodate the rose's roots. Sprinkle in a handful of **ican Slow Food**, which will provide nutrients for up to two years.
- 3 Prepare the rose as you would when planting in the ground – soak in water, trim roots if necessary, position at the correct depth in the hole.
- 4 Backfill the hole, working the potting mix around the roots and firm in, ensuring the crown is at soil level. Water in well.
- 5 Be attentive to watering, especially when the rose is actively growing through summer. Daily, sometimes twice daily, watering may be needed.
- 6 Liquid feed with **ican Fast Food** every week for healthy growth and blooms.
- 7 Deadhead, trim and prune as you would any rose in the garden.
- 8 Repot your roses every two to three years. The same pot can be reused or use a larger pot. At pruning time, remove the rose from the pot, shake off the old potting mix, trim the roots, then repot with fresh potting mix.

Winter care and pruning

Roses that are well cared for in winter will reward you with splendid blooms in spring and summer.

Prepare

In late autumn, stop dead heading and trimming your roses to discourage new growth. Leave the last of the season's flowers on the stem and allow them to form hips (seed pods). The rose bush will think it's done for the season and begin to go dormant. Apply a dressing of sulphate of potash which will help new wood to harden before winter.

Remove fallen leaves around your rose bushes to prevent diseases and insects from overwintering in the soil. This is a good time to spray the rose bush and surrounding soil with lime sulphur which controls a range of pests and diseases, plus moss and lichen. Do not use lime sulphur and copper based sprays within 2 weeks of each other.

Check your pruning gear. You will need clean, sharp secateurs and possibly a lopper or pruning saw for large roses. A wire brush is handy to remove flaky bark on mature plants. Thick prickly resistant gloves are essential, (try the **ican waterproof range**) and check your immunity to tetanus. Booster injections are offered at 45 years and 65 years of age.

Prune

Roses respond well to a good prune in winter, July to August. Don't worry about cutting back too much—roses are resilient. When pruned the plant will look smaller and bare but will strengthen and re-establish quickly in spring.

Start with the four 'D's' – remove any dead, dying, damaged and diseased stems. Also remove shoots that are crossed and tangled, and anything thinner than a pencil which will not produce flower buds.

Then prune the remaining branches by a third to half, just above an outward facing bud. On older plants, use a wire brush on the crown to remove lichen and moss, and old flaky bark. This will also stimulate the growth of new shoots.

Clean away any old leaves and prunings and follow up with a post prune spray of **FreeFlo Copper** and **Enspray 99** spraying oil to complete the job. This combination will help reduce fungal spores and over-wintering pests, and protect the new pruning cuts from infection.

Then it's time to sit back, satisfied with a job well done and the anticipation of beautiful fragrant flowers starting in November with many varieties continuing for months.



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A correctly pruned established rose