

Planting & Caring for Your Rose Garden



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Introduction

Flowers are a great addition to anyone's life, home or yard. They are a natural way to add color to your life and they smell great at the same time. Roses are one of the best additions as they add color, scent and elegance to any flower bed or home.

Roses are a symbol of peace, love, and friendship. Roses are characteristic of great taste and ever lasting love for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and the infamous gift for Valentine's Day. They are always the flower to choose when you are looking to make a special bond with a special someone.

You can purchase roses anywhere. They are available at flower shops, grocery stores and even convenience stores, but they are even better when they come directly from your own flower garden. There are various types of roses and each has its own special characteristics. All roses require the same type of care and that is what you will learn throughout this eBook. This book is a comprehensive guide to planting and caring for your roses, as well as tips on arranging, drying and giving roses as gifts.

Roses are a high maintenance flower but once you have the process down you will have beautiful roses every year. You may feel a bit overwhelmed at first, but each year you will be blessed with beautiful roses that will make your gardens sparkle with color and they will brighten up any room in your house.

Chapter 1

Choosing the Right Roses for You

There are hundreds of types of roses that you can choose from when planting your first rose garden. This is great because you will be able to utilize a variety of different types of roses throughout your garden. You can mix and match colors and add a variety of different types of roses to your existing garden. To make choosing your rose types easier, you might want to consider a few ideas before you go shopping.

First, color will play a large part in your rose type selection. From the traditional red to beautiful yellow roses, you have a lot of choices and depending on your flower garden you may want to mix and match a few different types.

Secondly, you will want to consider the height that the roses will grow to. You will want to consider the height of your current garden and ensure that if the roses do grow higher than your existing plants that you can fit them in as a background. Some roses may grow as high as 20 feet and this should be considered prior to making your purchase.

If you live in an area where cold winters are an issue, then you will want a hardy type that will be able to survive during the winter months. The roses will not bloom, but the plant itself needs to be able to survive the cold.

There are advantages and disadvantages to different types of roses. You will want to learn what these are as they pertain to the types of roses that you may be choosing for inclusion in your garden.

The amount of space that you have available in your garden is certainly a concern as well. Roses need proper exposure to air as well as sunlight and rain.

If you are going to be including roses in your home flower arrangements you will need a type that will not fall apart once it is cut. Hybrid teas are great for flower arrangements and are to be considered if you intend to use the roses throughout your home.

Roses need a specific type of environment. Other flowers may damage their special ecosystem and you certainly want to consider what types of flowers you already have when choosing the types of roses you are going to include.

Types of Roses

There are a variety of roses and some are easier to grow than others. There are a variety of rose types to list and this list is by no means complete, but these are the most common types that are typically included. One of the best places to get additional advice and information would be your nearest greenhouse. Some people are novice gardeners and this is something that should be considered as well.

- **Landscape Roses:** These are excellent for a novice gardener. They require less maintenance and do not succumb to disease easily.

- **Shrub Roses:** Shrub roses are also very disease resistant and they have a long blooming season. These are also good roses for the beginning gardener and beautiful foliage even when they are not in bloom. This name can be somewhat confusing as all roses are technically shrubs. These roses however, are denser and can be excellent for use as screens or hedges for privacy. They also make an excellent border and background for your garden. Many of these roses can grow as high as six feet.
- **Climbing Roses:** These are a different type of rose plant because they are designed to grow up like vines. These are great for growing on trellises and may make an excellent backdrop for a yard or garden. They are also able to grow up buildings. These roses add a dramatic effect to any home or garden. There are several types of climbing roses that you will need to consider with some being more intrusive than others.
- **Old Garden Roses:** These roses have a strong fragrance, so if you have allergies to fragrances then they may not be the best choice for you. They are very disease resistant and will bloom for several months at a time. These roses were recognized in 1867. These roses are hybrid teas and there are several different classes. The majority of these roses are native to the United States, but a large number of them are from Europe and Asia. These are some of the hardiest roses and are able to withstand a wide variety of weather and climate changes. They do flourish when planted in favorable areas, but they seem to be able to withstand just about anything. The appearance of their blooms seem to signal the arrival of summer.
- **Modern Rose:** These roses are the result of cross breeding with the polyanthus and the hybrid tea. These are long blooming and very fragrant. They are also excellent for flower arrangements.

- **Miniature Roses:** These roses are very unique and they feature a great scent and style. These are excellent indoor roses and do great in the sunniest spots of a home. These roses are very easy to grow and they are great home accents. All they need is a short “bath” each week and last forever. These roses can grow very large, up to four feet, so it is important to keep this in mind. The large plant will need an ample amount of light for survival. These roses do excellent outdoors as well.

Rose Classifications

There is not an official classification system designed for the rose, however there are different schemes used by gardeners throughout the world. The American Rose Society has a popular system that has been employed by in cooperation with the Federation of Roses. This is not the only system, but it is used by most rose societies.

The American Rose Society uses three types of groupings for roses. These include:

- The Species
- Old Garden Roses
- Modern Roses

The Species are often referred to as “wild roses.” They are easy to identify as they feature five petals and are typically very thorny. These roses are typically found in the Northern hemisphere and they grow best in temperate climates. They may also be climbers. The most popular roses of this group include:

- Cherokee Roses
- Dog Roses
- Gallic Roses

- French Roses
- Redleaf Roses

Old Garden Roses bloom once per season, usually at the beginning of the summer. These roses are available in both shrub and vine styles. The colors of these roses vary, but white and pastel colors are very popular. These roses are often referred to as “antique roses” and they are very easy to care for. These are excellent for home gardens and landscaping. The most popular types of these roses include:

- China
- Tea
- Moss
- Damask
- Bourbon
- Noisette
- Hybrid Perpetual

As previously mentioned, Modern Roses are the result of cross breeding the polyanthus and the hybrid tea. These roses feature deep and rich colors that make a vibrant addition to flower gardens. These are some of the most attractive roses available. These roses do not tend to do well in cold environments. The popular types of the Modern Rose include:

- Hybrid tea
- Floribunda
- Grandiflora

After roses are classified into these three main groups, they are broken down into further sub-groupings including:

- Color
- Scent

- Growth Habit
- Ancestry
- Date of Introduction
- Blooming characteristics
- Size

It is difficult to classify every rose because of the different hybrids. The hybrids are often a class of their own, but the system explained above seems to be the most functional system that has been adopted worldwide.

Chapter 2

Planting Your Roses

Planting roses doesn't have to be as complicated as many people may make it seem. If you have the right knowledge, then you can create a beautiful rose garden. Begin by discussing the best types of roses for your climate with your local green house. They will be able to help you identify roses that match your gardening skill level as well as roses that require little maintenance. It is always best to begin planting in the spring.

When looking for a spot to plant your roses, be sure that it is well lit in the morning. The roses need about six hours of sunlight per day. This amount of sunlight is essential to your roses growing properly. The soil in the area also needs to be able to drain well. The best soil will have a pH of 5.5 to 7.0. There are soil pH testing kits available at most garden centers. Organic matter such as manure is essential as well. This matter aids in nourishing the roots. Before planting it is best to soak the roots in water or puddle clay for several minutes. You should also cut off any root ends that are broken.

When digging your holes for your roses, you will want to dig a hole that is twice as large as the amount of space that the roses will take up. This makes them easier to plant and the roses will have plenty of space to grow. If roses do not have proper circulation, then they are susceptible to fungal diseases. A larger hole will also make it easier for you if you decide to move them later.

For the first three to four weeks, the roses will need to be watered often. If the top two inches of soil is dry, you will need to keep it moist to ensure that the roses are receiving plenty of water to remain hydrated. Rose food is also helpful and will ensure that the plants remain healthy. After four weeks, you will want to soak the bed every two weeks. It is best to do this in the mornings for optimum results.

After three months, you should begin a fertilization program. Three to six inches of mulch will help control your moisture levels as well as temperature. Mulch will also keep weeds to a minimum. Weeds will steal the essential nutrients that your roses require. The mulch will aid in locking in the water and fertilization that you feed to the roses.

Planting Potted Roses

Potted roses have been made very popular as gifts and in order to maintain your gift you will want to include them in your own flower garden. Like other roses, it is best to plan them in the spring. You do not want to submit these roses to any chance of frost, so be certain that the winter is well over before planting. If you live in Florida or California then you may plant in early fall when the weather is cooler.

It is best to plant roses that do not have any flowers currently on them because the plant needs to be established first. If the plant is already blooming, cut the flowers off before planting. You also need to consider the environment and

ensure that there is at least six hours of sunlight available in the mornings. The early morning sun will dry the dew off of the flowers and prevents fungal diseases.

Prepare your soil and ensure that it has proper drainage. You may also want to test the pH balance as discussed above. You will want to work in a few handfuls of planting composite as well. The hole you dig should be about two feet deep and. Remove the plant gently from the pot by tapping it out. Position it in the hole so that the soil level matches the soil height around it. Fill in the hole and then dig a mote around the plant. You will fill this with water.

This process is very similar to planting roses that have never been potted, but you want to include the planting composite that it is in so that there is not an environment shock to the plant.

You can also plant your roses in pots if you live in an area where you want to have roses in pots around your home, in your apartment or even a condo. There was a time when planting roses in pots were taboo, but because a city dweller shouldn't have to live without these beautiful flowers there are several types that are perfect for pots. These varieties are excellent for growing in pots:

- All that Jazz
- Balerina
- Blush Noisette
- Bonica
- Cecile Brunner
- Clotilde Soupert
- Green Rose
- Gruss an Aachen
- Hannah Gordon
- Hermosa

- Katharina Zeimet
- Mrs. Oakley Fisher
- Peace
- Perfume Delight
- Precious Platinum
- Sea Foam
- Sexy Remy
- Souvenir de la Malmaison
- Stanwell Perpetual
- The Fairy
- Valentine
- Whiskey Mac

It is relatively simple process to plant your roses in pots as long as you do it after the last frost. Choose an appropriate sized container for your plants that will allow them to grow without them having to be transplanted frequently.

Fill the pot with a garden soil or composite that includes organic fertilizer. The hole you dig should be larger than the root ball. After filling in the hole, dig a moat around the plant and fill with water. These roses will require regular feeding and pruning as your outdoor plants would require.

You can grow your plants indoors providing that they have plenty of sunlight. Roses need a lot of sunlight, but they also need a lot of water. They do best in a humid environment.

Planting Organic Roses

All things organic are very popular right now whether it be organic food or organic flowers. Organic growing is all natural and will prevent many of the problems that

pesticides and insecticides may cause. It is also healthier for you because you are not handling those chemicals.

Each plant will need to have at least a foot between them. This provides the flowers the proper amount of circulation that they require. This space also helps prevent leaf disease. You also need to ensure that the roses you purchase are certified organic. They should have a sturdy green stem and no blemishes. Bare roots are also best. The leaves should be evenly spaced and close together.

Soil should be well drained to promote healthy growth. The soil should also allow you to build organically. Your local gardener should be able to provide you advice for ensuring your soil is organic depending on the area where you live.

Begin by soaking your bare root plants in a large container of compost tea for several hours. The soil should be mounded up with an equal amount of compost in the middle so that the roots may spread out and down.

Plant the rose plant so that the area where the stem turns into roots is at the soil level or about one inch below the top level if your area has hard winters. Ensure that the roots are not growing in a bundle but straight out from the plant. If they are then you will have to make four cuts to cause them to spread. The hole should also be about two inches deeper than the container and twice as wide.

Mix the compost with the organic garden soil. Spread the mix around the roots and fill it in to secure the plant. To prevent weeds and water stress, mulch the area. This will also aid in making your roses require less maintenance.

These roses should be fed organic fertilizer and receive a regular watering schedule. The roses should be watered deeply at planting and then once a week there afterwards during the growing season. Morning watering is always best.

You should also cultivate the top inch of the soil around the plants and fertilize monthly with the organic fertilizer. Granular type fertilizers are best for these. You can also use a fish emulsion or seaweed based product on organic roses as well. The essential ingredients for these roses include:

- Nitrogen
- Phosphorous
- Potassium
- Iron
- Calcium

These ingredients should be present on the fertilizer's label. Mix these products with water to ensure that the plants receive these nutrients.

For pests and insect prevention, you can use sticky level bars every ten feet to catch them. You may also use an organic pesticide if you have a sever pest problem. Insecticidal soap is also best for very severe pest situations. These products are sprayed over the roses.

Organic roses have excellent colors and known for having the best "immune systems." Their fragrance is also great.

Cold Climate Roses

Roses are fairly hardy and can grow just about anywhere. There are specific types of roses that do not do well in cold climates such as the Hybrid Tea. The Hybrid Tea does not do well in cold climates, but flourish in climates such as Florida.

If you live in an area that receives harsh winters, then you will want to find a good, cold climate rose type. These roses need to be able to survive during the

winter frost. These roses also tend to be easy to maintain and excellent for novice gardeners. Here are a few rose types that do well in cold climates:

- Rugosas
- Griffith Buck
- Modern Roses
- Centrifolias
- Species Roses
- Gallica
- Alba
- Shrub roses

These rose types tend to thrive during cold winters and will bloom every summer. If you live in an area that is prone to harsh and cold winters then you will want to discuss these types of roses with your local greenhouse.

Chapter 3

Caring for Your Roses

It is essential that you water and fertilize your roses on a regular basis. They also require regular pruning. In order to care for your roses properly, you are going to need a few tools to get you started:

- **Pruners:** Pruners are used on a regular basis. There are two types available that you can choose from. The anvil pruner has blades that meet on top of each other. The bypass pruner has blades that pass each other like a pair of scissors. You should always use the bypass pruners to avoid crushing the canes and stems of the plant.
- **Loppers:** Loppers are required as your garden starts to mature. These are great for cutting back old, thick canes that are too strong for your pruners. You won't need these for a while until your plants are very mature.
- **Long Handled Shovel:** You will want a lightweight shovel but one with a long handle. A padded handle is also best, as it will prevent blisters in the long run. They will also prevent you from being stuck by thorns.

- **Wheelbarrow:** You are going to need a real wheelbarrow if you are going to be doing some serious gardening. A wheelbarrow will help you carry around your large bags of dirt and mulch.
- **Gloves:** You will want a good pair of leather gloves for rose gardening. These should have big cuffs that will protect your wrists and hands from rose thorns.
- **Kneeling Pads:** You can use either strap on kneel pads or larger kneel-on kneeling pads with handles. Strap-on kneepads are excellent because you don't have to drag them along with you as you move.
- **Short Digging Fork:** This is an indispensable tool. They will turn and loosen soil in small areas. This tool should have strong steel forks and a good, sturdy handle.
- **Watering Wand:** These are excellent for potted plants and roses that need a good root soaking. They quickly and easily snap onto your water hose. Wands with brass fittings are best and will last for years.
- **Garden Rake:** You will want a rake with sharp metal teeth. These are used for leveling and smoothing out your flowerbeds. You need one with a sturdy handle and steel tines.
- **Leaf Rake:** A leaf rake is good for cleaning up your clippings, leaves and other debris. Child size rakes are good for tight areas.

All gardening stores should carry these basic tools.

Watering Your Roses

Roses need a lot of water and it is one of the most important aspects of caring for your roses. Roses need almost as much water as people do. There are several things that you need to consider.

Heat will make the soil dry out faster, therefore your roses are going to get “thirstier.” Roses need more water during the summer months than they do in

the winter months. Even when it is a rainy summer, they will still need to be watered, as rain cannot provide enough moisture.

You want to water your roses so that the water reaches the roots. The water needs to go approximately 45 centimeters deep into the soil. Watering in the morning also helps to rinse dew off of the roses. Once the plants are established, they need to be watered about once a week. During the hot months, they need to be watered about twice a week. You also do not want to water directly on the flowers as this can cause the leaves to grow fungus.

Fertilizing Your Roses

Roses need their nutrients and fertilizing is essential. Most roses need to be fertilized frequently so that they can grow at their fast pace. Roses should be fertilized with a slow release fertilizer such as fish emulsion or Osmocote when they are planted. Follow the instructions on the label. You want to avoid fertilizing too much in the winter because you do not want to promote new growth during this time.

You also do not want to fertilize plants that are heat or water stressed. Plants that are water stressed will begin to show leaf and bud burn. Plants receive the most nutrients at about 70 to 80 degrees. During the growing season, your plants will do best if they are fertilized every two weeks.

Pruning Your Roses

Pruning is one of the most difficult tasks involved in rose gardening, but it is also one of the most essential. Pruning is the act of removing dead and damaged pieces of plant and will encourage new growth. You are also able to train your roses to face a specific direction by pruning. You can train the new growth to grow facing the outside of the plant and this will provide the plant with enough air circulation.

Begin by soaking your pruning shears in equal parts water and bleach. This helps to prevent disease as well as insects. It is also best to prune in the spring. You want to do your pruning right after the snow has melted and before you see any new growth and when the buds are swelled.

Your smaller hand shears are best for pruning small branches. For the thicker and larger branches you will need a pair of loppers. These are best for branches that are thicker than a pencil. Cut all of the branches that are overlapping each other because these are often diseased or becoming diseased. You want to keep at least five healthy branches that are dark green and you want to clip off the black wood first. Your healthy branches can be cut to about four feet long or the size that you prefer.

Helpful Pruning Tips

- Always use sharp bypass pruners. Clean them before and after use to remove any diseases that may be present.
- Seal your cuts to keep out disease. Elmer's glue is best for sealing and preventing diseases.
- Shape your bushes as they grow. This will add symmetry and your bushes will not grow wildly.
- Remove cross branches to promote strength.
- Keep the center of the bush free of growth. This keeps your bushes free of homes for insects.

Chapter 4

Preventing & Fixing Common Diseases

Roses are susceptible to a variety of diseases and fungus. Many problems are relatively easy to care of, but it is best if you can prevent them all together. The easiest way to prevent disease is to choose rose types that are low maintenance. You should also plant your roses in an area where they have at least six hours of sun.

You can also prevent disease by planting a variety of flowers around your roses. This will help provide a more balanced ecosystem for your roses. They should also be properly spaced so that they receive enough air circulation. Good compost and mulch will help provide ample drainage for your roses. Two inches of mulch at the base of your roses will help to keep any soil diseases from infecting your rose plants.

Fixing Common Problems

You cannot always prevent all diseases, so you will have to know how to fix these problems first. Here are a few problems you may experience and how to fix them.

- **Aphids & Spider Mites**

These are green insects that will suck the juice out of your roses. This causes the roses to dry out and they will require additional water. To treat these you will simply want to wash them away with soapy water.

- **Black Spots**

Black spots are a fungal disease. This disease affects the canes and causes black and brown spots to appear on the foliage of the plant. This can be easily be fixed by pruning away the affected areas. This can be prevented by not watering the head of the plant.

Black spot is one of the most common rose diseases. It is caused by the fungus *Diplocarpon Rosea*. The later stages of black spot are easy to recognize. You will black colored spots on the leaves and a yellow ring around those spots as it progresses. The black spots grow until the entire leaf turns yellow. The yellowed leaves will fall of the bush. You will also see spore-producing spots from as well. This fungus on the leaves will not die, so you want to be sure that you throw them away and do not compost them. The fungus thrives on warm and moist environments. The spores of the fungus will germinate after 7 hours of becoming wet and when the temperature is between 65 degrees Fahrenheit and 75 degrees. The disease spreads more quickly in the summer and warmer months.

- **Canker**

This is also a fungal disease that causes black spots. This disease will also cause the canes to turn black or brown. Prune the canes below the canker when you begin your early spring pruning.

- **Midge**

This is a tiny maggot that damages the rose buds. To get rid of this problem, you will want to prune of the buds and destroy them.

- **Rust**

Rust causes an orange powder to form in the center of the rose. This is caused by wet, but calm winters. This is one area where spider mites may help. They do not like the water and will suck it out of the plant. You will later need to remove the spider mites to prevent them from damaging the plants once the rust is gone. You can remove these through an insecticide or with soapy water.

- **Powder Mildew**

Powder mildew can be removed through the application of this simple mixture.

1 Gallon of Water

2 Tbsp. Baking Soda

1 Tbsp. Murphy's Oil Soap

Spray the roses with this mixture every two weeks in the morning until the temperature reaches 80 degrees.

Chapter 5

Rose Gardening Year Round

Each month you will want to take special care of your roses. They will require different amounts of water and fertilization throughout the year and you want to provide them with the utmost care to ensure that they produce beautiful flowers each year.

Depending on where you live, you may see early spring show up somewhere between late March and early April. This is the best time to begin a bulk of your rose gardening, that is as long as this is past the last frost of the year. If you have provided your roses proper winter protection in the area of dirt or coverings, then it is time to remove these coverings and introduce your dormant plants to the spring.

You will want to use this time to cut back dead and damaged canes. You also want to clear out an debris or residue that has formed around your bushes. You will also need to prepare the soil to nurture your plants by adding organic compounds. These are often available pre-packaged at your local garden shop. You can also mix composted manure or mushroom compost with alfalfa,

cottonseed, fish or blood meal. Work the soil over if it has become compacted. Roses need well-drained soil to survive. In about fourteen days, you can begin applying a fungicide spray. Remember to rotate your sprays throughout the year to prevent them from becoming resistant. Don't apply a pesticide if you do not see any damage yet.

By late spring you may be seeing some of your first blooms. This is when you will want to begin your deep watering. In early May, you may need to be adjust your watering schedule depending on how many heavy rains you receive. Be careful to not over water as it can cause mildew and other fungal diseases to appear.

You will also want to begin deadheading your roses. Cut back a few branches with outward facing buds that have more than five leaflets. This is a good time to enhance the overall appearance of your bushes. You will also want to add in your organic compounds. Begin working in your compost and manure as well. You can also apply shredded leaves and grass clippings. This is also a good time to begin checking for pesticides and getting rid of them as soon as you can.

As summer comes around you are going to want to prepare for the heat. Heat is hard on roses, especially during July and August. Humidity can cause insects and fungal diseases and your roses are at risk for heat damage and burn. Begin by water from the roots and not from the top of the plant. Water daily if the temperature is above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Pot roses may need to be watered twice a day. Avoid watering during the hottest times of the day.

Spray fungicide on a weekly basis, especially if you live in a humid area. Cut back canes and foliage that are showing signs of fungal infections. You will also want to apply light fertilizer three times per week. You will want to apply two to three cups three times per week up until the last week of August.

Spider mites will also be common during this time, so you want to spritz your foliage with water on a regular basis. Spider mites do not like the water and they will leave your roses alone. You also want to pay careful attention to your deadheading and cut back your roses in the latter part of August. This will help you to produce autumn blooms. Trim out your stems and branches that are growing in the center. These center branches will be breeding grounds for insects.

In early autumn you will see some of the best roses. September and October will be bountiful if you have paid proper attention to your roses over the summer. You will see full and colorful blooms during these months. Fall is the best growing time, but you will want to start think about the winter to come.

During these months you will want to continue watering your plants. You will also want to keep watering them deeply. Apply a water-soluble fertilizer until the end of September and you can also use bloom-boosting fertilizers as well. Stop fertilizing at the end of October so that your plants can begin to go into hibernation. Be sure that you maintain a watchful eye for black spot and mildew. Keep your spraying program regular during this time. October is also a great time to cut roses for bouquets.

As late autumn arrives you will want to begin preparing for winter hibernation. This is sort of an odd time for gardeners as their rose bushes have not yet begun their hibernation but the growing season is over. You will still need to provide a lot of water and give them a good occasional soaking.

You can stop all of your pruning and deadheading at this time because you do not want to encourage new growth. You will want to stop applying organics in October, so you don't need to apply fertilizer either. The goal is to keep the roses healthy, while allowing them to become dormant. You can continue spraying to keep black spot away and spider mites may still be active. Spritz the

bushes whenever you see spider mites coming up. Aphids may also be active and you can get rid of them with soapy water.

Be sure to remove any diseased leaves and rake away fallen leaves. This removes any disease residue that may be present. This is also a good time to prepare new rose holes and beds for your next garden. There are also several varieties that will require mulching, these include:

- St. Patrick
- Color Magic
- Oklahoma
- Signature

Hardier varieties will not require mulching until next month. If you do everything right your roses will look great next spring, but there is still work to do during the winter.

Winter is the time your rose garden will be resting. This can be a disastrous time if you do not prepare your roses properly. Your Old Garden roses and “own-root” species are hard enough to make it through the winter. Your fragile varieties, such as the hybrid teas or budded roses, will have a hard winter if you do not prepare them.

Preparing for winter should wait until the first hard frost and when the leaves have begun to wither and fall. This is a good time to remove ground foliage and other garden debris. You will want to remove any plants that may contain diseases or insects through the winter, as they will feed on your roses. You want the plant to stay frozen throughout the winter and prevent them from thawing and refreezing numerous times. Prune back your taller plants before you cover them for the winter. Don't do a thorough pruning because this will encourage them to grow more. You may also tie your canes together to prevent them from becoming damaged by strong winds.

Hilling is a common winter protection as well. Pile loose and well-drained soil or compost around and over the bush. You want a depth of about ten to twelve inches. The soil or compost you use should not have any excess moisture in it. Use cold and dry soil for a winter covering. Once the soil has frozen completely, cover it with leaves and straw.

If your roses are healthy and protected by clean and well-drained soil your roses will have a better chance of surviving. Once you have your garden ready for winter, you will want to take some time to clean and sharpen your tools.

Chapter 6

Roses as Gifts and Drying Roses

Roses are great as gifts, especially for a special individual or occasion. Roses are common for Valentine's Day, weddings and anniversaries. Roses are able to express anything you want to say something special without saying a word at all.

Bouquets

This is the most common gift that roses are used for. They are great in any color, especially when mixed with Spanish Moss or Baby's Breath. These are very attractive and can be very simple, yet attractive gifts.

Potpourri

Potpourri is a lovely way to enjoy roses. Turning your roses into potpourri is easy and all you have to do is dry your roses properly. Once the roses are dried, you simply break the blooms apart and separate them. Place the shreds in a nice container or even hosiery for drawer potpourri.

Dried Bouquets

These are beautiful bouquets and will last forever. All you have to do is follow the sanding method for drying roses and plant them in a small pot. You can also

mix the roses with dried green moss and other dried flowers. There are also several sprays available that will give the flowers a glossy look.

Candied Roses

These roses do not have to be completely fresh or dried. You can mix these with real roses or with candied or chocolate roses. These are a unique and delicious gift.

Drying Your Roses

There are a variety of reasons to dry your roses. One is that you can preserve your beautiful blooms forever and they also make special mementos. They can be used in weddings or as simple gifts.

Air Drying

Air-drying is the easiest method of drying your roses. All you have to do is start with perfect roses on their stems. If they are not perfect, they will fall apart. Remove leaves for the branches and bunch them in a manner so that they fan out. Tie the bottom of the bunch with a string or rubber band. Hang upside down in a dark, dry area for about two to three weeks.

Sand Drying

To sand dry your roses, you need to begin with perfect roses that do not have any dew and have dry stems. Bend the end of a wire into a hook over each rose head and pull down. This will secure the head to the stem.

Next, dilute glue with a dab of water. Take a toothpick and dab a thin coat of glue at the base of each petal. Next, work the glue into the base of the stems of each flower so that you can attach each petal to the base. Wait until the glue dries completely.

Now, carefully cover the flowers with sand in deep open boxes. Make the sand deep enough that the hold the flowers upright. Sit each flower in the sand box and slowly pour sand around the flowers until they are around and under the petals. Pour the sand evenly so that they can preserve the flower's shape.

Place the boxes in an area that is dry, but brightly lit and warm. This causes the flowers to maintain their bright colors. Allow them to dry for one to three weeks.