

# ROSES IN NEBRASKA

**Roses are a timeless edition to any landscape!  
We can help you choose which rose is best for you and your garden.**

### Site Selection & Planting:

All roses prefer well-drained, slightly acidic soil and at least 6 hours of sun. Dig your hole wide, and amend clay soil with compost and perlite. Keep in mind the mature width of your rose and plant a proper distance from other plants. Planting too close can restrict air flow and increase foliar diseases. Myke and Superthrive will greatly reduce the stress of transplant and build healthier roots.

### Own Root vs. Grafted:

Many of the "fancy" roses are grafted, meaning the top part of the shrub is growing on a root stock that is more cold-hardy for Nebraska. Own-root shrubs are ones that are already cold hardy and did not need to be grafted. It is recommended to plant grafted roses so that the graft union is a few inches below the soil level, and provide additional winter protection.

### Floribunda Roses:

This semi-compact shrub can get to be 3-5' tall & wide, is low maintenance and will bloom continuously from late spring-late fall with little pruning. Flowers have a light-medium fragrance, and in comparison to grandiflora roses, these have smaller flowers in bigger clusters, and a longer blooming period. These are also hardier and more disease resistant than the grandiflora.

### Grandiflora Roses:

This rose is a cross between the hybrid tea and floribunda roses, where it bears the best of both. Huge flowers in clusters of 3-5 blooms atop long, sturdy stems over an extended period of time. Their flowering period is longer than the tea roses, but shorter than the shrub and floribunda roses. They can get up to 6' tall & wide, and regular deadheading will prolong their flowering.

### Shrub Roses:

*Easy Elegance* and *Knock Out* roses are amongst the most common brands of shrub roses. They usually stay under 4-5' feet tall and wide, and come in a variety of colors and fragrance levels. These are considered disease resistant, but will benefit from fungicides in cool, wet weather.

### Groundcover (Drift) Roses:

These low growing shrubs are perfect for the front of the garden, narrow areas, and along walkways. They stay low to the ground with little pruning, and will bloom from late spring through fall. They're salt tolerant, so they're safe to plant in areas that may be exposed to salt in the winter.

### Miniature Roses:

The name says it all, as these adorable shrubs max out at about 18" tall and wide. They can be planted in similar areas to the groundcover roses, or grown in a container and brought inside as a houseplant for the winter.

### Hybrid Tea Roses:

Tea roses are the epitome of elegance and beauty. A large, voluptuous flower opens slowly atop a single stem. Their intoxicating fragrance and long vase-life make them a great cut flower. The blooming period is a little shorter than other roses, but regular deadheading will encourage additional flowers. They can get up to 6-8' tall & wide, so be sure to give them plenty of room in the landscape.

### Climbing Roses:

Despite their name, they don't "climb" as well as vines do, so they might need a little help latching to its intended structure. These long-stretching shrubs are great for a trellis, pergola, arbor, or fence. They can grow upward of 10-15' feet, so be sure to give them plenty of room. Most varieties are re-blooming and can bloom from late spring to fall.

# CARING FOR ROSES IN NEBRASKA

## Watering:

Sprinklers might seem like the easiest way to water your landscape, but overhead watering can increase the chance of foliar diseases in many plants. Roses will prefer deep, infrequent watering, directly under shrub. They will need more water in the summer and while in bloom, but avoid over-watering. Allow the top layer of the soil to dry out a little in between waterings.

## Fertilizing:

Apply *Dr. Earth Rose & Flower Food* at planting, then again two months later. Apply in May and July for established roses. You can use a water-soluble fertilizer, like *Fertilome Rooting & Blooming* weekly during the growing season, if you prefer. Do not fertilize or prune after July so the shrub has time to harden off before winter.

## Pruning:

Dead heading is the practice of trimming spent blooms to encourage more flowers and an extended blooming period. Floribunda and shrub roses will flower continuously with little to no pruning, where as hybrid teas and grandifloras will benefit from dead heading. Major pruning should be saved for late winter/early spring (late February- March), before spring growth begins. Your typical rule of thumb is no more than 1/3 of the shrub overall, but some roses can take a harder cutback than that. Start with cutting out diseased or dead canes, then trim to shape. ALWAYS sanitize tools before and after use to prevent the spread of disease and viruses.

## Attracting Pollinators:

To attract the most pollinators to your garden, select a single-flowering rose where the yellow stamen of the flower can be seen when the rose opens fully.

## Insects:

There are lots of insects that are attracted to roses. Most insecticides are deadly to the beneficial insects, so use caution when applying insecticides while your roses are flowering. *Neem Oil* and *Spinosad*, are not harmful to pollinators when used as directed, but will be effective against pests like aphids and Japanese Beetles.

## Disease:

Nothing is safe from fungus here in the Midwest, so it's especially important to apply fungicides when we are having cool, wet weather (primarily spring). *Fertilome Broad Spectrum Fungicide* or any *Copper Fungicide* will be effective against the various foliar diseases that roses can be susceptible to.

## Winterizing:

Most roses, especially tea, floribunda, and climbing roses, need winter protection of the lower 8-9" of the canes. This is accomplished by using reusable rose collars. Rose collars are 9" tall heavy duty plastic strips that clip together to form a 12" diameter circle that can be filled with dry mulch. You can use 2 collars on wider shrubs. Apply the rose collar after all flowering has ended and the leaves hang limp from numerous 15-20 degree nights. This is typically late October to mid-November.

If pruning is necessary, do not cut shorter than 18". In early spring, when reddish-pink buds appear on the canes, remove the collar and the mulch/soil. Remove any winter-damaged canes, but strive to leave 12" of cane to begin the new season.

