

# Keeping Up with The Roses Class

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## Rose Shopping Guide

### Standard Roses

For rose collectors. High maintenance.

- Hybrid Tea - long stem, 1-3 flowers per stem
- Floribunda - medium stem, 8-16 flowers per stem
- Grandiflora - long stem, 6-8 flowers per stem

### Landscape Roses

Add color to open spaces. Modest maintenance.

- Knock Out - great for beginners, disease resistant, self deadheading.
- Rugosas - Roses that are found in the wild. Spring pruning only, grows edible rose hips. Flowers similar to cherry or apple blossoms Great for pollinators. Very large rose bushes.
- Shrub - Spring pruning. Aggressive growers needing occasional pruning to shrink size in summer. Flowers very small 20-30 per stem.

### Mini Roses

Great for small spaces or pots. Modest maintenance.

- Knock Out Petite - just like knock out roses, just mini.
- Mini Roses - Can be found at grocery stores around spring holidays. These roses grow just like hybrid tea roses, just mini.

### Climbing Roses

Add color to a structure. High maintenance.

- Should be called "Training Roses" or "Horizontal Roses"
- Train the rose canes to grow horizontally on a fence, wall or trellis. This technique of training produce the highest quality flowers and in the most abundance of any other type of rose. If it grows vertically the plant will not really make flowers. Shop carefully for size.

## Tools, Soil, Etc.

### Soil

Roses are heavy feeders and require regular addition of soil amendment.

- Soil Building Conditioner
- Raised Bed Soil
- Gardener Soil
- Compost
- Fall Leaves
- Dried grass clippings

### Pruning

- Small UltraPrecise Pruning Sheers (Needle-nose)
- Regular Pruning Sheers
- Lopper (Not needed for mini roses)

### Fertilizer

- Bone meal
- Organic Rose Fertilizer
- Liquified Fish Fertilizer
- Shake N'Feed rose & flower formula

### Other

- Leather Gloves
- Digging Fork (Optional)

### Keeping Up With The Roses



Full season rose care

### Need Help?

Keeping Up with the Roses is available to help select and plant the perfect rose for your garden. All roses are purchased locally from West Seattle Nursery whenever possible. Contact us at [KeepingUpWithTheRoses.com](http://KeepingUpWithTheRoses.com).

## Planting

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- Select your spot that has access to 8+ hours of direct sunlight
- Call 811 before you dig
- Dig the hole 2.5 feet wide and deep
- Remove the rose from the planting pot and put it in the hole
  - Remember to bury the bud union (pronounced "onion"). Your decorative rose is grafted onto a weather hardy root stock. Bury the root stock graft at least 3 inches deep. If it is not buried deep enough, it can sucker and you will have two colors and types of roses.
- Mix ~1.5 cubic feet of soil amendment and 1 cup bone meal fertilizer with native soil and refill hole
- Add 2 inches, ~0.5 cubic feet, of soil amendment to top dress
- Water

## Pruning

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Standard, Mini & Landscaping Roses:

- Pick your favorite three, four, or five young canes that are strong enough to hold the weight of flowers. Cut everything else.
- Shorten rose canes to the desired height - 18 inches to 3 feet. It depends on your rose and your preference.

Climbing Roses:

- Main canes growing from the ground need to be trained to grow horizontally
- Lateral canes, which grow vertically from main canes, prune everything except the last two bud eyes
- If space is needed on trellis remove oldest canes and replace with basal breaks canes

Tips:

- Remove all dead and diseased canes.
- Young canes make more flowers than old canes.
- Rose bush leaves don't want to share sun with other leaves. Prune to make sure there is enough space for each leaf to have sun.
- If you cut too much, don't worry. It will grow back.
- Make it your own! If you want it tall, lightly prune and keep it tall. If you want it short, prune it short.
- Prune any small canes won't support the weight of flowers.

### Keeping Up With The Roses



Full season rose care

## Contact Info:

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## Yearly Timeline

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Here's a rough timeline of what to do each month of the year in Seattle:

**January:** Nothing

**February:** Prune

**March:** Fertilize, Spray leaves to prevent disease, Add soil amendment

**April:** Spray leaves to prevent disease

**May:** Fertilize, Spray leaves to prevent disease

**June:** Deadhead, Water weekly

**July:** Deadhead, Water weekly

**August:** Fertilize, Deadhead, Water weekly

**September:** Deadhead, Water weekly

**October:** Nothing

**November:** Winterize, Add soil amendment

**December:** Nothing

## Deadheading

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Want more flowers? Deadhead your roses when their blooms wilt.

Flowers are the basically the sexual organs of plants. By removing wilted flowers, you make the plant sexually frustrated by blocking its ability to grow seeds. Deadheading will force the rose to grow new flowers.

## Winterizing

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Winter is coming - prepare your roses by removing any branches that will get damaged from high winds.

Remove all leaves.

Add thick layer of soil amendment to top dress the rose bed.

Do not prune it short, it will think its dying and start to grow like it is spring.

Optional: keep rose hips (seeds) on the bush for winter color.