

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter

February, 2018



The topic this month is roses.

PRUNING ROSES

When to prune? Most experts say after February 14th or the last chance of frost for your area.

Knockout Roses and Drift Roses:

During the growing season, Knockout Roses bloom for a few weeks, go into a resting phase, and then bloom again. A resting phase is a good time to prune.

Antique Roses and EarthKind Roses:

Prune to shape the rose bush in early spring and fall

Climbing Roses:

These roses are pruned to renew plant vigor by removing old canes.

FUNDAMENTALS

Regardless of the type of rose bush, follow these practices when pruning:

- 1) remove any canes that have been damaged;
- 2) remove one of two canes which may be rubbing one another; or
- 3) remove canes that are spindly or smaller in diameter than a pencil.

Good garden hygiene is important for healthy roses:

- ◆ During the growing season, overhead watering should be avoided.
- ◆ Removal of leaf litter and pruning of diseased canes (back to healthy wood) is also important.
- ◆ Keeping the rose bushes thinned well at pruning and deadheading times will help the airflow through the bush, thus also helping to prevent black spot on roses and other fungal disease outbreaks.
- ◆ Fertilizer for roses should also be applied in spring, following the label instructions carefully.
- ◆ Mulching the rose bush will help retain moisture and may also offer some winter protection.

DEADHEADING ROSES

There are varied opinions about deadheading rose bushes. Many rosarians prefer to prune the old blooms off down to the first 5-leaf junction with the cane at a slight angle leaving approximately 3/16 to 1/4 of an inch above that junction.

The amount of cane left above the 5-leaf junction helps support the new growth and future blooms.

TRANSPLANTING ROSES

If a rose is not performing well in one location, look around the yard for an area that is better suited to the rose.

After February 14th, it is normally safe to dig up the rose.

Some tips for transplanting:

- 1) Prepare the new hole by adding compost and filling it with water to ensure the soil is moist when planting.
- 2) Prune the rose bush severely—within 6–12 inches from the ground.
- 3) Prepare a mixture of water and Super Thrive in a large bucket. Soak the roots of the rose bush (or any plant) for approximately 30 minutes.
- 4) Once the water in the hole has been absorbed, the plant can be placed in the hole.
- 5) Follow typical planting procedures from here.

SUMMARY

What do roses need to be healthy plants?

- 1) Air circulation around and through the plant.
- 2) Pruning
- 3) Six to eight hours of full sun
- 4) Water, good drainage and food

COMPANION PLANTS

Roses perform better, have fewer pests, and a longer season of interest if surrounded by companion plants. Remember that the companions should have the same need for water, fertilizer and pesticide treatments.

Make sure to maintain good air circulation. Companion plants should be at least 12" from a rose bush and not be aggressive or invasive.

Some companion plants include:

Dianthus, Lobelia, Sweet Alyssum, Petunia, Phlox, Verbena, Daylilies, some Salvias, Penstemons, and many more plants.

Ask your favorite nursery staff for help selecting companion plants.

MARCH TOPIC: Freeze-Damaged Plants.