



# Lifelong Enjoyment Of Your Roses

## Tips & Plant Care

Thank you for purchasing, or planning to purchase, roses from us. Our roses come with a warranty good for one year after your purchase. Therefore it is important for you to follow our planting instructions. Take the time to read these tips and with them, and good care, you will receive lifelong enjoyment from your roses. And perhaps even the generation after you!

Below is a brief explanation of what you should do after you have purchased your roses. The planting instructions are explained in more detail later.

### Planting Instructions

1. Select the Correct location.
2. Make sure you have the necessary raw materials for soil improvement and fertilization.
3. Don't set the plants too closely together. Instead plant them at the correct distance from each other.
4. Sink potted roses in a bucket of water until no more bubbles are visible. Soak the roots of bare root roses in water for 2 hours and no longer.
5. Loosen up the soil well using a spade. Dig a hole 40 by 40 cm wide and 40 cm deep. It is okay to loosen the soil deeper than 40 cm. A larger hole offers the roots more space to grow.
6. Mix the soil dug from the hole with one third rose soil or good garden soil. If your native soil isn't good, increase this to a mix of half soil from the hole and half rose soil.
7. You can also mix the soil from the hole with well rotted compost or manure that has aged to the point where the smell is gone. In either instance do not add fertilizer to the mix.
8. Cut away any intersecting or dead canes from the plant. On bare root roses snip 5 cm off each root. Use a pair of good sharp secateurs.
9. Hold the plant by the roots at the proper height in the hole.  
The bud union (Where the canes come out from the base of the plant) should be 2.5 – 5 cm below the soil level. Make sure the hole is deep enough so the roots extend fully downward and do not curl up.  
For roses that have planted in a pot for only a short while, carefully remove the pot and keep the root ball intact as much as possible. For roses that have been in the pot a long time loosen the roots.
10. Using the shovel, begin to refill the hole. Periodically gently shake the plant so the soil will settle in between the roots.
11. When the hole is about two-thirds full gently pack down the sole with your shoe.
12. Then fill in the rest of the hole but do not pack it down with your shoe. The plant should now be firmly in the ground with the bud-union approximately 5 cm below the soil level.
13. Pour a lot of water over the rose. Minimum 10 liters!
14. Sprinkle rose fertilizer (see the flyer "Custom Manure") around the base and water in well.
15. If you are planting your roses just before winter we recommend mounding soil or compost around the base of the plant for protection. In the spring the mound is taken away.

16. If you plant following, or during, a dry period you will need to water occasionally. It is better to periodically deeply water all at once, then to water a little each day. If you have a lot of roses use a sprinkler and water for 3 hours once a week as opposed to a little every day.

### Planting Location

Don't plant roses in a location that was previously planted with either roses or potatoes. If the location was planted with either of those, then at least three years must have passed since they were removed. This has to do with the possibility of an infection by nematodes and harmful fungi in the soil. However, if you have no other place to plant the roses you have three options.

1. You can replace the soil with new soil from a location that has not previously been planted with roses or potatoes. Please note we are recommending at minimum one wheelbarrow full of new soil per plant!
2. Amend the existing soil with "Root Grow". This consists of a mixture of soil fungi, mycorrhiza, that belong with roses. Please contact us for more information.
3. Seed the ground with marigolds. Marigolds have a deadly affect on nematodes. When the nematodes penetrate the roots, they are killed by a deadly substance which is released when the root cells are damaged. This substance, ozone, creates a "burning" of the nematodes. The planting of actual marigold plants instead of seeds is pointless because this "mat" needs to be planted as tightly as possible. In autumn the marigolds are simply turned under and the roses can be planted in the manner described above.

### Planting in soil that is too dry and/or doesn't retain water

If you plant roses in soil that is too dry, the roses will still grow, but not very well. Lack of moisture means the rose, despite good fertilization, will not get the right nutrients. Lack of nutrition results in less disease resistance and that can lead to infection by fungi such as blackspot and mildew.

Make sure your roses are at least one meter away from any form of conifer. You'll be amazed at how much water conifers pull in! The remedy for dry land is to fill the plant hole with good rose soil designed to retain water. We have a special blend that is perfect for this. Generally roses cannot withstand drought, although some can better than others. Please contact us for suggestions.

### Soil that is too wet

It may sound crazy, but roses that are too wet are actually suffering from drought! As a protection against "drowning" the plant closes its feeder roots and they dry out. Again, it helps to add a good soil that regulates moisture and to make sure you have good drainage. If necessary you may have to install a drainage system.

### Planting in Shade

There is a rule of thumb that all roses like full sun. Actually, some tolerate shade quite well. However, most roses that take shade still need two to three hours of sun per day. It is important to realize that a rose in the shade, just like one in the sun, still needs all the other factors we've already discussed in order to grow well. A rose in the shade, in poor dry soil, is just asking for trouble. Even with a rose that is tolerant of shade.

### Full Sun

Full sun for a rose is never a problem. However, it should be noted that some rose blooms fade under the influence of bright sunlight. This is especially true of darkly colored roses. When the light is somewhat tempered, the rose comes into its true, full color. In autumn, when the intensity of the sunlight is less, the blooms are less affected by fading. This is something that goes with roses.

### Wind

A little wind is actually good for roses. It keeps the leaves dry, which makes them less susceptible to fungus. However, roses with soft stems and large flowers don't do well in high winds as it breaks the stems and shatters the blooms. A little protection is recommended for these kinds of roses. We do have roses that are suitable for windy sites. Please feel free to ask us.

### Climbing Roses

Don't put climbing roses directly against a wall, but plant them about 20 to 30 cm from the wall. Also use the good moisturizing rose soil if the ground is too dry. Plant rambling roses that you wish to grow up trees about 1 meter from the trunk of the tree. As the rose grows use a stick to place the canes up into the tree. For both sites a little extra attention in the early years is needed. As with all roses a few buckets of water periodically all at once is better than a little every day.

### Land Improvement

Roses will grow in any soil, but in general it should be light and fertile. Some varieties will grow in poor soil, shade and cold, and while they will tolerate these conditions, it doesn't mean they like it.

We recommend you add to any hole, regardless of soil type, one to two buckets of our organic rose soil (10-20 liters). This composition greatly improves the soil structure, creates an active soil life and offers a good start to your roses. We also have our own special blend made for potting up our roses. This mix is available to you in easy to handle bags. Adding compost is also possible, but compost is not a substitute for manure! Mounding compost or other organic matter around the base of the plant in winter offers excellent protection against frost. After the winter you can simply dig it in to add additional fertilization and improve the soil structure. A layer of compost of about 5 cm throughout the year is a great weed suppressor and continually improves soil life.

### Manuring

Good nutrition is also important for roses. Without it the rose will grow weakly and be susceptible to plant diseases and pests. You can use different fertilizers, and while there is nothing wrong with the standard packaged fertilizers for sale the name says it all; they are standard. You can do better! We here at Bierkreek have developed a new fertilizer line: "Custom Manure<sup>®</sup> that comes in Springmix, Summermix and Fallmix. There are different versions for sand, clay, poor and peat soil. There is also a special version for newly planted roses! For more information please see our flyer on manure.

Manure should never be added directly to the hole because it may burn the roots. After planting you scatter it around the base of the rose. It is best to water right afterward so the manure can dissolve into the soil. Roses need nutrients and trace elements all year long. This means you have to fertilize two to three times per year.

### Distance Between The Roses

Roses like light and space. Because of this don't plant them too closely together. In this table, we advise you of the spacing between the plants that works the best. When you buy your roses from us we will give you recommendations on the number of plants per square meter based on the varieties you select.

### Roses In Pots – Bare Root Roses

When you receive our roses in the winter (November to March/April) they are bare root. We harvest them during this time and we do not pot them up. You can plant them immediately. If you can't plant them directly it is best to store them in a cool, dark room in a tightly sealed plastic bag. Then if you can't plant them a week after receiving them, it's best to heel them in outdoors. To do this untie or cut the string on the bundle, dig a trench long enough to hold them and put the roses in, making sure to spread the roots well. The roots and the bud union should be well covered with soil. The soil should be moist and then be kept moist.

Before you plant the roses, soak the roots for about two hours in a bucket of water. But no longer than two hours!

What if you purchase potted roses and cannot immediately plant them? When they arrive put them in either a shallow dish or a bucket with a small amount of water so they can soak up water from the bottom of the pot. Soak them again right before planting until no more bubbles come out. Then remove the plant from the pot and pull the roots apart at the bottom, but make sure the main root ball stays intact. From September to winter you can shake all the earth off the root ball so only the roots are left.

Distance
1 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 100 cm
2 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 70 cm
3 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 60 cm
4 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 50 cm
5 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 45 cm
6 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 40 cm
7 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 38 cm
8 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 35 cm
9 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 33 cm
10 p/m <sup>2</sup> = 31 cm

## Planting Time

The best time to plant bare root roses is from early November to March. If it is very cold in March you can sometimes wait until mid-April. Never plant if there is snow on the ground or the soil is very wet.

Roses in pots can in principle be planted all year round, even while in bloom. Please make sure to provide sufficient water.

## Pruning

A good pruner is a pair of secateurs that are sharp and clean. You can try different types at our nursery and pick out the pair that is best for you. All parts are replaceable and we'll help you with regular maintenance. Cut out crossing and dead branches completely. Snip the roots so they are not bent or curled when planting the roses in the hole. You can typically cut off 5-10 cm.

### First Pruning After Planting

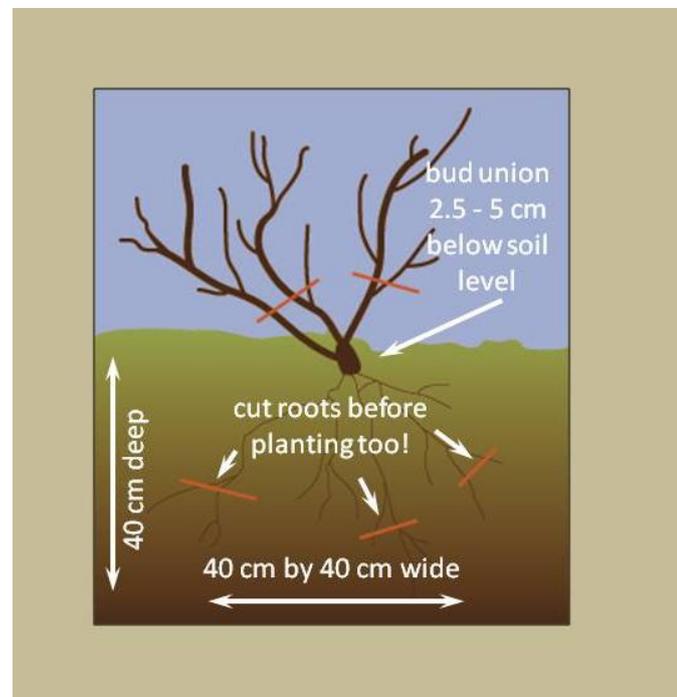
The first pruning will depend on the type of rose. For advice ask us when you receive your roses. For most modern shrub roses that are planted in the spring, cut the branches to just above the ground – leaving about 2-3 bud eyes. The branches should be about 5 cm long. It is best to cut just above an outward facing bud eye so the plant will be well developed.

When you plant in Autumn prune the longest roots before planting, but only cut the branches back a little bit. You will cut the branches more in March.

Pruning in Subsequent Years. This also depends on the type of rose. Ask us when you receive your roses. Pruning in fall just before the winter is almost always unnecessary. Some hip-forming varieties in the winter are very beautiful and useful to animals. It's a pity to cut them! Furthermore many varieties that bloom only once in spring or summer are best served by a summer pruning right after they flower. In almost all other types pruning in spring is sufficient. Bierkreek is working on making special pruning instruction sheets. Ask us for the correct way to prune your roses.

### Old Flowers

Most varieties benefit from deadheading, or cutting away the old blooms. This causes them to bloom even more. When doing so it is



important you follow this rule of thumb. Look down from the flower along the stem. Keep going until you encounter the first set of healthy leaves. You can compare it to other sets of healthy leaves on the plant. That is where you cut. It doesn't matter if the set has five, seven or even fewer leaves. The most important thing is that it is healthy.

### Suckers or Rootstock Growth

Our roses are budded onto wild rootstock. Sometimes the rootstock will send up long shoots. You will recognize these because they come from under the ground (if the rose is planted properly), the leaves are bright green and look different from the rest of the plant. You need to remove these shoots because they take nutrients away from the rose and will negatively affect its vigor. Tear it off under the ground where it meets the root. If you cut or tear above ground level or just below, you stand the chance it will simply grow again.

## Pests and Diseases

Organically grown roses are strong vital plants. This way of farming results in plants with a natural, solid foundation and have a high resistance to disease and pests. Intervention through the use of pesticides is therefore not needed. To keep the plants healthy it is important to choose the right planting site. When a rose is in the right place, in the right soil – not too wet, not too dry – with enough light and nutrients, it will develop into a healthy and robust plant. One able to withstand an aphid infestation and even powdery mildew or black spot. A healthy plant with sufficient strength

will suffer little from disease. While there are roses more naturally susceptible to diseases, even these roses when planted in a good spot and with good care can become nice plants. Never put a susceptible rose in a dry place or one with lots of shade and little food, because that is asking for trouble.

#### **In General**

In time natural enemies such as hoverflies, parasitic wasps, lacewings and ladybugs will arrive. If you use pesticides to control insects such as aphids you can often also kill their natural enemies. The cure is eventually worse than the disease. If you do want to attack the aphids do it by hand, by squirting them with water or use a solution of mild soap. It kills only the so-called soft insects and won't harm the ladybugs for example.

-For mould and mildew, black spot and rust you can best avoid them by giving the rose the

correct start and care. Susceptible varieties can be given a helping hand with biological agents. The principal of these is they make the leaf harder so the fungi have little chance of infecting the rose.

-In humid weather, the chances of mildew and black spot are greater.

We from the Bierkreek wish you a lifelong enjoyment of your Roses.

Our roses are produced in a CO<sub>2</sub> neutral manner.



Skal NL-BIO-01/18383 (organically grown, according to EC-Regulation Nr. 834/2007) Naktuinbouw-membershipsnumber 25557