

## A ROSE GROWING CALENDAR FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN AREA

<b>January</b>	Catalog time is planning time. Choose new rose varieties and place orders as soon as possible. Rose bushes should be wholly dormant and the ground should be frozen now. Winter protection prevents repeated thawing and freezing with resultant heaving of the soil and exposure of the bud union to the elements. Check soil moisture levels; deep water as needed when the daytime temperature will remain above 45 degrees for several hours.
<b>February</b>	If starting a new rose bed, and you did not prepare the area the previous fall, dig holes now to avoid the rush of spring duties later. Study rose literature and continue landscape planning. If drainage is a problem, consider putting raised rose beds into your plans. Roses need sun for at least half a day and can use full sun. Morning sun with afternoon shade is preferable. Do not plant roses near large trees or hedges. Remember to update rose bed maps with names of newly planted bushes. Continue to deep water roses if needed.
<b>March</b>	When soil is workable, after soaking bushes for 24 hours, bareroot roses can be planted. Roses may also be transplanted without shock now. Visit the local garden centers and select any tools needed, especially pruning shears. Stock up and place date of purchase on containers of insecticide, miticide, fungicide and fertilizer so as to be ready for the season. Talk with a Consulting Rosarian before purchasing these materials. Continue to deep water if needed.
<b>April</b>	Prime bareroot planting time continues up to the middle of the month. Mound soil up around newly planted rose bushes or cover entire bush with burlap or evergreen boughs to prevent dehydration. After two weeks, wash soil away gently a little at a time to permit new growth to become acclimated. Remove old leaves, trash and other debris. When pruning, always seal canes with cane sealer, Elmer's glue or colored finger nail polish to prevent cane borer damage. Deep water as needed.
<b>May</b>	Watch for aphid infestation. If only a few are seen, try squishing them off by hand or knocking them off with a strong spray of water. If too many appear for this, use an insecticide spray. It is best to water rose beds prior to spraying and avoid spraying during the heat of the day to prevent damage to foliage. Leaf roller worms may appear – spray immediately. Ask a local Consulting Rosarian for which spray to use. In cool, damp springs, spraying for fungus diseases can begin as soon as leaves are out or especially if these were a problem last year. Organic fertilizers can be applied to established bushes (not newly planted ones) monthly starting about the middle of the month. Water deeply before and after applying fertilizer.
<b>June</b>	Continue watching for aphids, thrips, spider mites and leaf rollers. Begin watering deeply at least once a week. Fertilize for the second time. Disbud Hybrid Teas for Rose Shows and follow instructions for exhibiting and grooming. Cut spent blooms properly to promote continued flowering. Whenever roses are cut, apply cane sealer to the cut end of the cane. Begin regular preventive spraying according to directions for powdery mildew, blackspot, anthracnose and/or rust if indicated.
<b>July</b>	Continue deep watering (especially immediately prior to any spraying). Keep up monthly fertilizing. Cut spent blooms and seal canes. Alternate type of sprays for both insects and diseases. Often spraying for disease is not needed during the heat of summer. Do not spray when temperatures are over 85 degrees. Wear protective clothing and goggles, gloves, mask and sturdy shoes. Wash protective clothing separately from other clothing and remember to clean off eyeglasses. Apply additional mulch around bushes to bring level to several inches deep to conserve water and keep the soil cooler.

<b>August</b>	Powdery Mildew may begin to reappear in the last half of the month. If it appears in spite of preventive sprays, an eradicator spray will be needed. Check with a local Consulting Rosarian. Continue deep watering until the middle of the month, then reduce watering to begin slowing down the rose growth in preparation for the dormant season. Although fertilizing is not usually recommended after the middle of the month, if fertilizing is needed, switch to a liquid foliar form. If vigorous basal growth appears in the last part of this month, it is wise to remove these new shoots which may not harden off before an early damaging frost.
<b>September</b>	Continue disease preventive spraying. Continue to reduce watering so plants can begin their hardening off process in preparation for dormancy. When removing spent blooms, cut just below the bloom so as not to stimulate succulent growth which would be injured severely by freezes. Definitely remove any vigorous basal breaks starting to grow so as to prevent freeze injury to the bush.
<b>October</b>	Deep water prior to predicted hard freezes to lessen damage to roots which could occur in dry soil. If growth continues, continue disease spraying. Remove any blooms just below the flower. Take time to plan and prepare new rose beds. Spade or rototill new beds deeply, mixing in organic materials and let lay rough over the dormant season. Check with a Consulting Rosarian on how to prepare new rose beds.
<b>November</b>	Water when ground appears dry by checking the soil condition 4'5" deep but water throughout the winter as temperatures allow. Cut canes back to two or three feet or so tall and tie together (on repeat blooming modern roses – not climbers or shrub type roses) if necessary to prevent breakage by high winds or heavy snow. Remove leaves, trash and debris from rose beds. When the ground freezes, apply winter protection.
<b>December</b>	Now that most gardening action has slowed to a virtual stop, it is time to sharpen and oil pruning tools, clean spray equipment and store it in a dry place for the winter. Continue to check soil moisture levels and water as needed when temperatures will stay above 45 degrees for several hours during the day.

Adapted from materials by Casey O'Donnell, Jerrie and Myron Nixon, and Joan Franson  
 Updated February 2002

## KEEP YOUR OWN ROSE CALENDER

Create your own special rose calendar or journal. It can function as a quick and easy reference guide for **when** you did **what** in your rose garden, provide you with an updated planning tool for future years, and supply information to guide you toward more successful rose gardening.