



Contribution Information Sheet

Functional Area: Rose Planting & Care

Title of Article or Material: "Planting Your Rose Bush"

Type of material: Word File PDF PowerPoint Spreadsheet Web hot link Other

Author: Cindy Dale

Contact e-Mail: rosepro@bellsouth.net

Contact: Phone: 770-631-3885

Date Submitted : July 30, 2010

Date Posted: August 3, 2010

Date Last Updated:

Information Source(s): Cindy's Experience

Target Audience for this information: Newer Rosarians

Abstract: This article covers how to plant large potted bushes as well as bareroot roses.

Planting Your Rose Bush

by Cindy Dale, Consulting Rosarian

For large, potted bushes:

- Dig your hole approximately 2 feet deep by 2 feet wide.
- Using a wheelbarrow, mix 1/3 soil from the hole, 1/3 cow manure (preferably Black Kow), and 1/3 soil conditioner such as Nature's Helper. To this, add 2 cups dolomitic lime (if a soil test shows a pH below 6.0), 1 shovel of *Mills Magic Rose Mix* or *Purely Organic*, 1-2 cups Epsom Salts, and 1-2 cups gypsum. 1-2 cups of several of the following organics can be substituted for the *Mills Mix*: blood meal, bone meal, fish meal, alfalfa, and cottonseed.
- Mix well with a shovel, discarding all rocks, sticks, and foreign material. Crumble clay clods with your fingers and keep mixing until the mixture is soft and friable.
- Fill the hole about ½-way with the prepared soil and place the potted rose (still in the pot) in the hole to check the level of the bud union. The bud union (or graft) should be about even with the top of the hole. Add or subtract soil to accomplish this. If the plant is grafted on to *Fortuniana* rootstock, the bud union should be about 2" above the soil.
- Place a handful of Super Phosphate and a handful of *Mills Magic* in the bottom of the hole. Mix in with soil.
- Slit the plastic rose pot carefully with a utility knife and pull the pot away, freeing the rose and its potting soil from the pot. Slide the rose carefully into the hole, rechecking the level of the bud union. Perform the same procedure if the rose comes in a box. I do not recommend planting a rose in a box even if the box directs that it be done this way because the box is supposedly "biodegradeable."
- Fill in around the rose with the rest of the prepared soil to the top of the hole.
- Tamp the soil down lightly, making a saucer indentation under the canes to hold the water.
- Water the bush deeply and observe how well the water is absorbed by the soil. If the water takes longer than 20-30 minutes to soak in carefully dig up the bush, amend the hole and the soil further, and replant.

- After planting, water the bush deeply every day for about the first 10 - 14 days and then as usual. Do NOT fertilize a newly planted bush til its roots are established, i.e. after the first full flush of blooms or about 8 weeks.
- Include the newly planted bush in your regular spray program.

For bareroot bushes:

- Remove bushes from packing materials as soon as possible after receiving. The dark, moist environment of the shipping box promotes diseases on the plant such as downy mildew.
- Soak roots and canes 24-48 hours in water with 1 Tbsp. of bleach per gallon to rehydrate and kill any bacteria that traveled on the plant.
- Dig the hole and prepare the soil as above including adding the Super Phosphate and Mills Magic to the bottom of the hole.
- Trim 1/2" off the end of each root. Trim broken roots above the break.
- Form an inverted cone of soil in the bottom of the hole to support the roots.
- Place the bush in the hole on top of the cone of soil, curling the roots around so that they all fit easily into the hole. Fill the hole to the top with soil while supporting the bush.
- Follow the rest of the instructions as above.