



## What are *bareroot roses*, and how do I plant them?

**Bareroot** roses are harvested in the fall, placed in cold storage over the winter to keep them dormant, and are then available to rose growers to plant through mid-April. These dormant roses are not in pots.

Inspect your bareroot rose for any broken roots or stems, keeping the rose cool and moist. If planting within a day or two, place the roots or the entire plant in a bucket of lukewarm water. Add a small amount of root stimulant or water-soluble fertilizer, such as Ortho-Gro or Peter's, to the water and then use fresh water each day afterwards. If planting is not possible for a longer period (a few days or more), the plant should be taken outside and hilled under by placing it in a horizontal position, covering with straw or burlap and then a layer of soil. This helps the rose to maintain dormancy.

### Planting Steps:

- **Site Preparation and Spacing:** When selecting the location, make sure that the site will receive at least 6 hours of sun daily. Other considerations would be: (1) make sure there will be proper air circulation around the plant; (2) plant where the rose roots will not have to compete with other shrubs or trees; and (3) allow enough space between mature plants so that each plant has enough space on either side for growth.
- **Pruning:** Prune off any broken canes or roots, and prune back the top of the plant so the canes are about 8 to 10 inches long. Prune back to a bud eye that faces out—this encourages new growth to grow out rather than into the center of the plant.
- **Planting Dimensions:** Dig the hole about 18 to 24 inches across and 14 to 18 inches deep in which to adequately spread the roots. If soil needs amending, it is suggested to replace a portion with additives in a 3:1 ratio (3 parts soil and 1 part peat moss or compost).
- **Soil Level:** Place bareroot rose in the hole to determine the correct soil level. Lay a stick or handle of a shovel across the hole. A grafted rose should be 2 to 3 or even 4 inches below the soil level; if the rose is grown on its own roots, the branching point of the rose should be 1 to 2 inches below the soil level.
- **Soil Mound for Roots:** Make a mound of soil in the bottom of the hole for the plant to sit on. This is called a soil cone. Snip-off root tips to stimulate growth. Spread the roots out evenly over the mound to establish a good foundation.
- **Backfill and Water:** Fill half of the hole with amended soil, gently spreading the soil over the roots then water and let drain. Finish filling the hole with soil and soak again. A small amount of organic fertilizer like Mile-Hi Rose Feed (1/2 cup) can be mixed into the soil. Do not tamp the soil down with your feet as it will destroy the soil structure.

### After Planting:

- **Bareroot Protection:** Protect your rose by mounding exposed stems with soil or cover with burlap, bark mulch, or loose compost for the next 3 to 4 weeks or longer depending on the plant's progress and the time of planting. Be careful when removing the soil from around the canes to avoid damage to new growth. Monitor the moisture level around the bush to avoid drying out from sun and wind while the roots are growing.
- **Remove Protection:** When there is no longer a threat of freezing temperatures, begin to remove the upper covering, this can be done with a gentle stream of water an inch or so at a time over a week or 10-day period, which will allow the newly planted bush to adapt and harden off. Remove the wire name tag from the rose cane and use other garden labels to identify the rose.