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Be Prepared: Rose Gardening Soil Preparation

By K. Finch

One of the easiest ways to ensure that your rose garden is a success is to be prepared. You can do this by making sure you've followed these tips for rose gardening soil preparation.

People need healthy food to perform their best, and roses are no different. In fact, roses are plants that require a large amount of nutrients in the soil in order to grow large and colorful blooms. The most important thing you can do for you roses is to feed them right. Since roses gain their nourishment through the soil that they are planted in, this means that you should take extra care to make sure that the soil is prepared sufficiently to support healthy growth. Here are some tips for proper rose gardening soil preparation.

The first step you need to take before planting is to dig up all the ground in your bed. You don't want any hard soil left. By digging up the ground, you will have the ability to get the fertilizer well mixed into the soil and this will allow the nutrients to sink into all of the dirt. This means that no matter what direction the roots grow in, they will be able to reach food. You want to make sure that the entire layer of nutrients reaches at least two to three feet. As your rose plant grows, its roots will reach deeper and deeper and this will make certain they are fed.

Your next step is to dig a one foot deep hole and lay the soil to the side. You can place it in your wheelbarrow or on a piece of plastic so that it can be re-added later. After digging the hole in the garden bed, the next step in rose gardening soil preparation is adding fertilizer. This can be in the form of compost, peat moss, or manure. You may want to consult a local greenery expert for advice on which fertilizers are available and useful in your area. Since climate can affect them, your fertilizer should be the one most potent in your area. Add around three inches of fertilizer directly into the hole you have dug in the bed. Start digging for another foot, mixing the fertilizer with the soil. This is the hole where you will place your rose plant, so you will want to make certain that the fertilizer and soil are mixed extremely well. After it has been mixed very thoroughly, it's time to add the dirt from the hole back into the rose bed. Once the dirt has been replaced, add another three inches of the fertilizer over the top of the rose bed. To protect your roots and encourage their growth, also add some bone meal. There are also rose fertilizers especially designed for the soil of a rose bed, you may want add some now if you want. But the soil should be well prepared without it. After all these layers have been added,

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use a spade to mix them up a little more and rake the top of the rose bed smooth.

The next step of rose gardening soil preparation is the hardest one: waiting. You need to give the soil a few weeks to absorb all of the nutrients before planting your rose plant. This will ensure that your rose plant is being fed the minute it gets planted.

If you follow our rose gardening soil preparation tips, your garden will be ready for planting. And your rose garden is well on its way to success.

Check out *The Joy of Rose Gardening*

<http://www.roseflowergarden.com>

now, to find great articles,

advice, tips and much more on rose gardening topics.

Rose Gardening

By Dream Team Media

The Roses are universally favorite plants. The bright vibrant hues give gardens a splash of color. You can smell the heady perfume of roses during summer as they fill the air. With so many different varieties to choose from rose gardening is a marvelous experience.

While it's true that there are many roses that you can choose from, the type is not important. What is important is that you plant them where you can reap the benefits later on. Roses are hardy plants. With so many gardeners breeding new hardy varieties, roses can now grow in any type of condition. Difficult soil and garden problems are no longer a barrier to well grown rose gardens.

The key to rose gardening lies in buying plants that are at least two years old, that have been field grown and are budded. If your young rose plants are pruned then the heavy stems need to be 1/4 inches in diameter at the top. On the other hand if the rose plant is not pruned, then there should be three or more heavy stems that are 1/8 inches in diameter.

You need to plant your roses in a sunny, well-drained spot. You should trim off all the bruised and broken stems off. In rose gardening roses need to be eased into the ground. You first dig a hole 6 inches deeper than the rose roots need, then make the hole wide and big all around so that the roots will not grow crowded or bent.

The bottom of the hole should have small rocks or pebbles in it. This rock formation will aid in the drainage for the roses. After the stones have been placed, mix one tablespoon of fertilizer over the stones. Above this lay good fertile soil until the level is where you will plant your rose plant. In the mound of soil make a small hole and carefully plant your rose bush in there. You will need to make sure that the hole has room for the roots. Then cover the roots with soil, firming the soil every so often.

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Rose gardening requires that you feed your roses at regular intervals to ensure healthy growth. The first feeding should therefore be given in early spring, before the roses bloom. The second feeding will come after the first heavy blossoming is finished. The third feeding occurs in late summer. If you are lucky there might be roses that will bloom until about November. If this is the case, then feed your plants a fourth time around

While all this care does help in rose gardening, chemical pesticides are needed to prevent sucking and chewing insects from damaging your roses. This pesticide also works to cut down on the fungus that likes to grow on roses.

Rose gardening is a lovely pleasant smelling hobby to do. If you take care of your plant during the initial days, then you will be rewarded with big, vibrant blossoms that are a joy to behold.

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