



A favorite coupling for Valentine's Day, red roses and baby's breath.

Maintenance of your rose garden

1. Watering properly is key to healthy roses. Water deeply without flooding and be cognizant of your sprinkler system to assure that your roses are not over or under irrigated.
2. Fertilize in March, then approximately eight weeks apart starting in May through September. For my first feeding, I like to use alfalfa pellets mixed with diatomaceous earth.
3. Although the new varieties of roses are more disease resistant, black spot, rust, and powdery mildew remain the culprits to control. Destroy any diseased, fallen leaves.
4. If you have a plethora of other flowers, your garden will have developed a more natural eco-system, keeping most pests away. Aphids can be sprayed with soapy water, or introduce ladybugs.
5. Deadhead as flowers wilt and prune

stems back one and a half feet after flushes of flowers to shape your plant. 6. Once a year, usually toward the end of January, heavy prune roses removing any dead, diseased or damaged stems. Old wood can be cut from older roses to encourage fresh growth. Shrub roses can be pruned one-third to two-thirds. Hybrid teas and floribundas should be pruned to three-quarters. Leave ramblers alone or shape them according to your wishes. Remove the dead wood on climbers and cut the year's flowering stems back to three-quarters.

Whether you decide to cultivate shrub roses, old roses, rambling roses, climbing roses, hybrid teas, tree roses or floribundas, you will be rewarded with beauty, fragrance, and the ability to create sweet scented arrangements throughout the year.

For Valentine's Day, consider giving your loved one a bouquet of roses and a bare root plant. Double the pleasure. Everything is coming up roses!



A warm apricot colored rose. Brandy.