

SELECTING AND PLANTING ROSES FOR YOUR GARDEN

Mesa East Valley Rose Society (MEVRS)

January 2017

ROSE SELECTION

Determine the garden space you want to plant and grow your rose or (who can stop at one) roses for ease of care, maximum performance and beauty. Select varieties that grow to the size, height, width and depth of the garden area available for your roses. Matching the garden area with the rose selection will make life easier and reduce the required care and increase the long term enjoyment of your roses. The selected area should receive at least six hours of sunlight daily.

Rose varieties are categorized into types with the largest growing roses generally being Climbing Roses then in descending order of bush size, Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Shrub, Polyantha, Floribunda, Miniflora and Miniature roses as the smallest. The size within each category can vary depending on the variety, so check the Tag information in the nursery, or google [help me find roses](#) when you are researching and selecting the rose(s) you want to purchase (see the link below). Note the sized listed are general information for the country, and in our desert climate they will be one to several feet larger than the mature sizes given. You'll find a variety for any color, growth habit, shape, size, disease and insect resistance and fragrance, to fill your selected garden spaces. The MEVRS web site link shown below or your local community rose society and the American Rose Society can also provide information.

When you have determined the varieties you want to plant, if possible select bare root roses #1 or Specimen grade rose bushes. They have the best chance of establishing and surviving our summer heat. Grades in roses of #1 ½ and #2 roses are lower grade and may or may not produce the best results. When selecting there should be three to four healthy nice sized canes that are plump with buds showing. Avoid bare root plants if the canes are spindly, leafing out or are shriveled. Examine and select plants with roots of a size to support the cane growth also avoiding plants with broken or severely cut roots. We do not recommend buying plants sold in plastic packages with roots severely cut or any roses that the canes have been dipped in wax. Chances for the plants growing are minimal, so why waste the money and your effort.

Bare root roses should be planted from mid December to early February. This allows the root system to grow and establish to support the bush before summer heat starts in June.

Container or potted roses have become more popular in the big box stores and by mail order over the last few years. Container established roses can be planted during cool seasons. Mail ordered own root roses in two, four inch or one gallon pots should also be planted January to early February or in containers in other seasons.

Moving roses in the garden is the same as planting bare root roses. The winter season is the only time to transplant or move a rose bush from one garden area to another.

Roses can be purchased at local nurseries or for unique or unusual roses online vendors.

PLANT SPACING

The following spacing between plants should be used as a general rule since varieties with in each type may grow larger or smaller requiring an adjusted spacing.

- Climbers six to ten feet

- Hybrid Teas and Grandifloras, thirty-six to forty-eight inches
- Floribundas, Miniflora Miniatures and Polyanthas, twenty-four to thirty-six inches
- Shrubs, twenty-four to forty-eight inches

For bare root roses soak the entire plant, roots and canes in water eight to twenty-four hours before planting to maximize hydration.

Whether planting bare root, container established or small potted own root roses, dig a planting pit with a generous diameter twelve to eighteen inches in diameter, twelve to sixteen inches deep. To the native planting pit soil prepare the backfill soil by adding and mixing about one fourth volume of potting soil available at nurseries. Along with the compost soil backfill mixture add two cups Milorganite a slow action organic fertilizer and ½ cup soil Sulphur for improving the soil and lowering the soil PH.

Now to plant, place the rose so the graft is at ground level or slightly below the surrounding ground, spread the roots in the planting pit and backfill with the amended soil mixture.

Container or pot grown grafted or own root roses should be planted slightly deeper than grown in the container, removing them carefully from the growing container to keep the soil in tact while placing and backfilling with the prepared soil.

After the mixed planting pit soil has been placed around the planted rose, water slowly and thoroughly so that the soil settles, but doesn't wash separating the soil and organic materials.

TRANSPLANTING OLDER GROWING ROSES

Roses that are a few years old that are healthy and have grown well can be transplanted. If they are very old, consider buying a new bush. Transplanting should be for bushes that are healthy or have a sentimental value.

Before transplanting, cut the bush back to ten to twelve inches. When digging and transplanting older growing rose bushes, keep as much of the root system as you can and dig the planting pit to match the size of the root system. Amend the soils the same as for planting new roses.

For more information you are invited to the Mesa East Valley Rose Society (MEVERS) meetings. MEVRS Meets the 2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM at Mesa Community College, Elsner Library Community Room 145.

LINKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Mesa East Valley Rose Society <http://roses4az-mevrs.org/>

The Rose Garden at MCC rosegardenatmcc.org, <http://rosegarden.mesacc.edu/index.html>

help me find roses.com, has photos and information on almost all rose varieties available
<http://www.helpmefind.com/rose/index.php>

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