PLANTING

Even for the inexperienced gardener, roses should pose no problem as long as the correct choice of variety for the location is made and a few, very simple, basic rules are followed.

**Light requirement:** Roses grow best in full sun, but will grow satisfactorily if they have 6 hours of sun daily. Do not plant too close to competing trees or shrubs.

**Soil preparation:** Roses appreciate good soil preparation. With heavy clay soil, mix 1 part organic material such as peat moss, compost, or dried manure with 2 parts garden soil.

**Planting:** Dig the hole at least 12 inches deep and 18 inches in diameter to provide plenty of space for root growth. Plant your grafted roses so that the bud union is 2” below the soil line. Place rose in planting hole and fill halfway up to sides of root ball. Firm soil and fill up the rest of the hole. Create a rim of dirt to hold in water and drench. Mulch roses with 3-4” of shredded hardwood mulch.

CARE AFTER PLANTING

**Watering:** Roses perform best when they have abundant water. Deep, thorough watering is best. Wet foliage promotes spread of the disease black spot. Water in morning so foliage will be thoroughly dry by evening. Mulch roses with 3-4” of shredded hardwood mulch.

**Fertilizing:** Container roses purchased at the nursery have been fertilized. Wait one month after planting and start fertilizing once a month thereafter with a good rose fertilizer. Quit fertilizing in August to help harden the plants for winter.

**Healthy Roses:** The best way to keep your plants free from pests and diseases is to grow them as well as possible. Be sure to choose disease-resistant varieties. If blackspot is a problem, spray with a fungicide early in the season following package directions.

**Winterizing:** Protect roses in winter with a mound of soil 10 to 12 inches deep. Tender varieties may benefit from a layer of straw or evergreens over soil mound.

**Pruning:** Roses need a light fall pruning and a more thorough spring pruning. In spring remove dead wood, thin weak growth, interior crossing branches and about half of last year's growth.