
Growing Period Roses

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We will discuss how to plant and grow varieties of roses that were grown in period. I will cover where to find period varieties, how to plant and care for them, what to do about pests (both insects and diseases), and if there is time, propagating rose plants.

1. Things to keep in mind about period roses

- a. With one exception, they only bloom once a year
- b. Some varieties will “run” and possibly take over a rose bed
- c. They can get quite large
- d. Their growth habit is not like modern roses. They may have long arching canes or they may be a bunch of pencil-thick canes coming up in a patch.
- e. most but not all are propagated as own-root

2. What period roses can be found?

- a. Gallica
 - i. Apothecary Rose (*R. gallica officinalis*)
 - ii. Rosa Mundi (*R. gallica versicolor*)
 - iii. Tuscany
- b. Alba
 - i. *R. alba semiplena*
 - ii. *R. alba maxima*
 - iii. Great Maiden’s Blush

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- c. Damask
 - i. Autumn Damask/Quatre Saison
 - ii. York and Lancaster
 - iii. Kazanlik/Rosa X damascena 'Trigintipetala'
 - iv. Summer Damask/R. damascena
 - d. Centifolia
 - i. Gros Choux d'Hollande
 - ii. Cabbage Rose (?)
 - e. Foetida
 - i. Austrian Briar
 - ii. Austrian Copper
 - f. Other
 - i. R. rubiginosa/R. eglanteria/Sweet Briar
 - ii. R. moschata/Musk Rose
 - iii. R. moschata 'plena'/double musk rose

3. Period Roses that are either not available or hard to come by

- a. R. hemisphaerica/Sulphur Rose
- b. R. francofortana
- c. R. centifolia 'Major'/Rose des Peintres
- d. Conditorum/Hungarian Rose/R. gallica 'conditorum'
- e. R. cinnamomea plena/R. majalis plena/Double cinnamon
- f. R. canina/Dog Rose
- g. R. Fedtschenkana
- h. R. sancta/ R. Richardii

4. Rose nurseries

5. What to look for when reading rose nursery websites

- a. Grafted vs "own root"
 - i. Advantages/Disadvantages
 - ii. Fortuniana/Canina/Multiflora/Rubiginosa

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- b. Specific class names (Alba, Gallica, Centifolia, etc)
 - c. "Old Garden Roses", "Ancient", "OGR"
 - d. Species
 - e. "Miscellaneous"

6. Join your local rose society

- a. Carolinas District of ARS
- b. Colonial District of ARS

7. Planting Roses

a. What do rose plants like?

- i. Sunny location
 - 1. 6 hours of sun/day
 - 2. Morning sun is better than afternoon sun
 - 3. It is not that roses bushes will not grow in shade, they won't thrive and BLOOM in shade.
- ii. Well-drained soil
 - 1. Roses don't like "wet feet"; they actually respire through their roots.
 - 2. How to tell if the location is "well drained"?
 - a. Dig a hole 12" deep
 - b. Fill with water
 - c. If the hole has not drained in 1 hr, drainage is not sufficient.
 - i. Amend the soil
 - ii. Use raised beds with well drained soil
- iii. Slightly acid soil (pH of 6.0 to 6.5)
 - 1. Have your soil tested
 - 2. Use a good pH meter (Kelway pHD meter ~\$70)
 - 3. Generally our soil pH is too low so need to add lime
 - a. Lime travels through the soil quite slowly
 - b. Mix well
 - c. Can take a season or more to register a change.

b. Location, location, location

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- i. Sunny & well drained
 - ii. Appropriate amount of room for bush
 - iii. Will it go where you don't want to go?

c. Actually planting the rose bush

i. From a pot

1. Dig hole about twice the width of the existing pot and height of pot
2. Loosen soil in bottom of hole
3. Adjust the depth of hole to the soil level in the pot is even with the surrounding ground (put the pot in the hole and check)... just has to be close.
4. Orient the bush the way you want it.
5. With the pot in the hole, fill soil in around the pot about half way up.
6. Remove pot from hole (leaving the space where the pot was defined)
7. Remove the rose bush from the pot
 - a. If the plant is root-bound (the roots are meshed around the perimeter of the root ball, use your hand to loosen the roots and "roughen them up a bit". You may need to use a knife or shears to cut slashes into the sides of the root ball about 0.5" to 1" inch deep.
8. Place plant in the hole (make sure the orientation is correct).
9. Add water until there is standing water then wait for the standing water to drain off.
10. Add soil back until the hole is filled
11. Build a "berm" around the bush, where the edge of the hole is.
12. Add water until you have standing water.
13. If there is a low spot, add more soil.
14. Water again until the berm is filled (so you have watered three times)

15. After the water has gone down, add loose mulch inside the berm and the area around. (I like hardwood mulch).

ii. **Planting bare root rose**

Much the same as above except for the following:

1. When you get the bare root bushes, they are dormant (it will be either late fall or late winter/early spring)
2. Keep unplanted bare root plants cool, moist, and out of the light.
3. About 8 to 12 hours before you are going to plant the bush, fill a bucket with enough water to submerge the roots but not the whole plant and throw in a couple handfuls of dirt (making muddy water). Soak the roots of the plants for 4 - 12 hours to make sure they are fully hydrated. Generally keep the rose in the bucket while digging.
4. Do steps #1 & 2 from **“Actually planting the rose bush/from a pot”** above
5. Build a mound in the middle of the hole
6. Take the rose and spread the roots over the mound
 - a. Make the mound higher or lower until the crown/graft point is at ground level.
7. Remember to check orientation
8. Holding the rose bush on the mound, fill the hole about half full, paying attention to getting soil in and around the roots.
9. Continue at **“Actually planting the rose bush/from a pot #9”** above (Add Water until there is standing water...)

d. **What if I want to put it in a pot?**

- i. If you want to keep the rose bush in a pot permanently, the planting process is basically the same;
 1. you just need to make sure the pot is big enough for the current plant to grow into;

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2. you can always then repot it into a even bigger pot in the future.
 3. However, consider if you will need to move the pot in the future. Big pots can get very heavy.

ii. Be careful leaving your potted rose sitting directly on the ground, particularly dirt/soil... (like in a flowerbed or in the grass)

1. the roots of the plant can and will eventually grow out the bottom of the pot and into the ground... which will make it VERY hard to move, both physically and without damaging the plant..
2. Solution: elevate the pot on something, to get it off the ground and provide an air-gap that should prevent the bush from grown into the ground
 - a. This also allows for better drainage of the pot... the excess water just dribble out the bottom

8. Caring for roses

- a. Water
- b. Food
- c. Pruning
- d. Pests

9. Propagating Roses

- a. Cuttings
- b. Layering
- c. Pegging/Staking/"Runners"
- d. Grafting
- e. Hybridizing

Local Rose Societies of Colonial District

<http://www.colonialdistrictroses.org>

- **Arlington Rose Foundation** - Pam Powers - Serving Northern Virginia -Southern Maryland and Washington D.C. pam1powers@aol.com
- **Bay Country Rose Society** - Martha Hill - Serving the Westover, MD, area - gibson1445@gmail.com
- **Charleston Rose Society** - John Fleek - Serving the Charleston, WV, area - fleek@suddenlink.net
- **Garden Club of Virginia** - Sharri Leffel
- **Huntington Rose Society** - Monica Valentovic - serving the Huntington, WV, area - valentov@marshall.edu
- **Maryland Rose Society** - David Walsh - Serving the Baltimore, MD, area - shiloh@qis.net
- **Northern Neck Rose Society** - Robert Lukacevic - rlukacevic@aol.com
- **Patrick Henry Rose Society** - Katherine Craig - Serving the Martinsville/Bassett, VA, areas - roselady2@comcast.net
- **Potomac Rose Society** - Joe Covey - Serving the metropolitan Washington, DC, area, including southern Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Northern Virginia - coveyj@earthlink.net
- **Richmond Rose Society** - Carol Fox - Serving the Richmond, VA, area - Carol.fox@scc.virginia.gov
- **Roanoke Rose Society** - Roy Forbes - serving the Roanoke, VA - rforbes@cox.net
- **Shenandoah Rose Society** - Charles Shaner- Serving the Staunton/Waynesboro/Harrisonburg/Lexington/Charlottesville, Monterey VA, areas - clshaner@yahoo.com
- **Southern Virginia Rose Society** - William Drinkwater - Serving the counties of Nottoway/Dinwiddie/Mecklenburg/Lunenburg and Brunswick, VA
- **Tidewater Rose Society** - Ms. Sunni Burns - Serving Norfolk/Virginia Beach/Portsmouth/Chesapeake/Suffolk and Southeast VA areas - sunnishine09@gmail.com
- **Virginia Peninsula Rose Society** - Cindy Dunlap - Serving the Williamsburg/Yorktown/Hampton, VA, areas - 757-867-7062 - cdunlap2@cox.net

Local Rose Societies of the Carolina District

<http://www.carolinadistrict.org>

- Asheville-Blue Ridge Rose Society
- Catawba County Rose Society
- Charlotte Rose Society
- Cleveland-Lincoln Counties Rose Society
- Eastern North Carolina Rose Society
- Fayetteville Rose Society
- Greensboro Rose Society
- Rowan Rose Society
- Wilmington Cape Fear Rose Society
- Winston-Salem Rose Society
- Charleston Lowcountry Rose Society
- Greater Columbia Rose Society
- Greenville Rose Society
- South Carolina Rose Society