

Suggestions for Caring for Period Roses by the Month

Master Manus MacDhai, OL

Barony of Windmasters' Hill
Kingdom of Atlantia

4Feb2022

January

- If it has been dry and the temps are above freezing, water by hand.
- Order new roses for delivery in the spring
- Clean and sharpen garden tools (pruners)
- Inspect bushes for damaged /broken canes and prune those out
- If using pesticides, spray dormant spray

February

- Transplant established bushes
 - Mulch around plants to preserve moisture
 - Prune out any obviously dead canes
 - If in zone 7b or above, roses should start breaking dormancy
 - Plant any new bare-root bushes
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March

- Apply organic fertilizer (manure) around plants
 - Prune out dead or damaged canes
 - In warmer areas, bush should be actively growing
 - In colder areas, starting to bud out.
 - If spraying, start applying fungicide
 - Plant any new bare-root bushes
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April

- Apply fertilizer: Choose type
 - Time release fertilizer like Osmocote: Now and again in mid August
 - Regular 10-10-10
- Water if weather has been dry
- Roses should be starting to bloom in warmer areas
- Replace the mulch
- If spraying, continue program
- If you have potted bushes, take them out of shelter
- Plant any potted bushes
- Last frost in zone 7

May

- Most roses should be blooming
- Start a regular watering schedule
- Apply 10-10-10 fertilizer or manure, if not using time-release
- If spraying, continue spray program
- Deadhead if you don't care about hips
- Japanese beetles arrive 😞

June

- Blooming starts to taper off
 - Deadhead if you don't care about hips
 - If not using time-release, apply another round of 10-10-10
 - If spraying, continue program
 - Apply an organic fertilizer like fish emulsion.
 - If blooms are done, prune back about $\frac{1}{3}$ and thin canes to allow air flow.
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July

- If not already done, prune back $\frac{1}{3}$ and thin to allow air flow
 - Water regularly
 - Continue any spray programs
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August

- Water / spray / weed
 - If using time release fertilizer, apply 2nd round in the 2nd half of the month
 - Prune out any dead canes
 - Prune back canes that are going where you don't want them.
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September

- Continue water/spray/weed
 - If you have Autumn Damask, watch for blooms.
 - Continue Water/spray/Weed
 - Start checking nursery websites for new plants
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October

- Add/replace mulch
 - Prune out dead canes
 - Clean up fallen leaves
 - Cut back on watering
 - Stop fertilizing
 - Transplant any potted bushes
 - Look at nursery websites for new plants
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November

- Plant any fall-shipped roses
 - Clean up around bushes
 - Add mulch
 - If in colder area, move potted bushes to winter shelter
 - Look at nursery websites for new plants
 - If in colder area, transplant any established bushes
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December

- Prune out any dead canes
 - Start planning any new/redone beds
 - Transplant established bushes
 - If weather is dry and above freezing, water once or twice during the month.
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Questions?

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Madonna of the Rose Bush by Martin Schongauer (1473)