Growing and Pruning Roses in the High Desert

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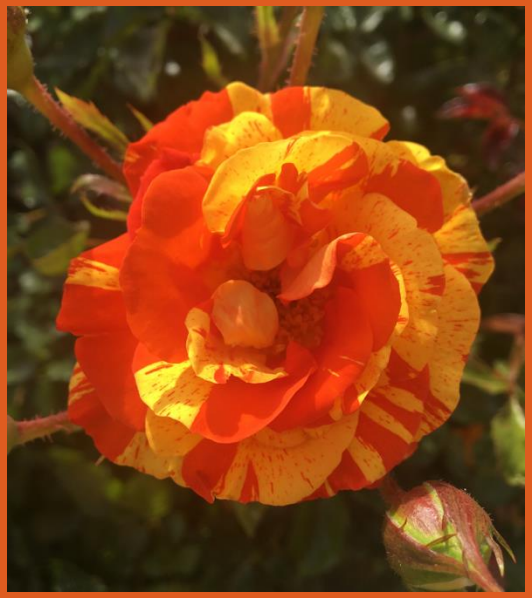
What will we cover?



Outline

- Types of Roses
- Planting/Transplanting
- Caring For Roses
  - Fertilize
  - Water
  - Soil pH
  - Pruning
- Insects and diseases
- Seeking out additional information

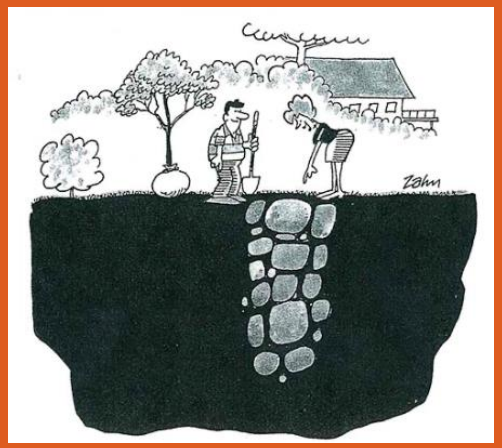
Types of Roses

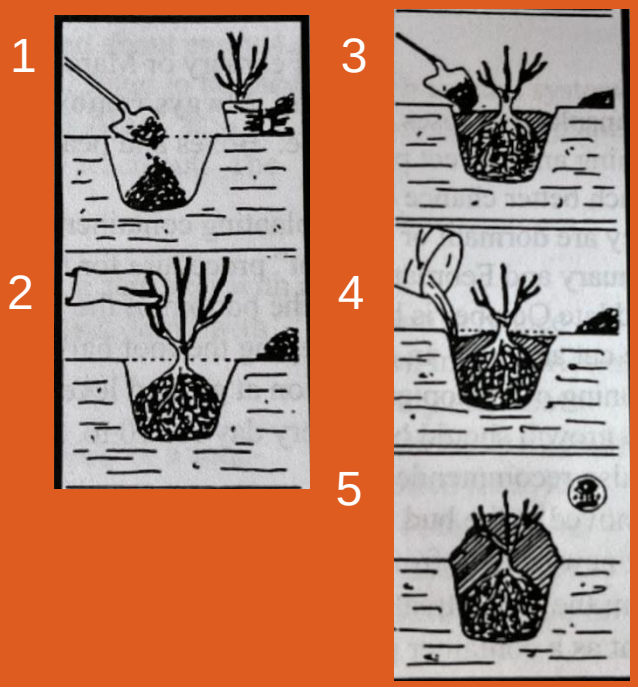
- Hybrid Tea
- Grandiflora
- Floribunda
- Polyantha
- Miniature
- Miniflora
- Old Garden Roses (OGR)
- Shrub
- Large-Flowered Climbers

Planting and Transplanting Roses

- Where to find them
- Bare Root vs Potted
- Choose roses with at least 3 canes of ½" diameter
- Transition them gradually to your environment
- Grafted vs own root roses

Planting Roses





- Soak bare root in bucket of water 12 to 48 hours
- Pick your spot: 6-8 hours of sunshine, no root competition, good drainage
- Dig hole 18-24" deep by 18x24" wide
- Check for good drainage – "Roses don't like wet feet"
- Create a mix to nourish your roses:
  - 2-3 shovels of wet peat
  - 1-2 shovels compost
  - 1 cup phosphate
  - topsoil
- Follow diagram—mound, spread roots, bud union directly on top of the soil
- If you're planting in February-March, mound around the base of the plant for protection
- Water well—keep soil wet, but not soggy
- Roses can also be planted in containers
- Transplanting is most successful in January-February
  - Prune heavily and water well

Caring for Roses

- Fertilize
  - Every 4-6 weeks
  - Mid-April through Labor Day
  - Good balance of NPK along with potash, sulfur, iron, copper, . . .
  - Follow package instructions
  - Water well first
- Soil pH
  - Compost
- Water
  - Water deeply
  - Mulch
  - Schedule:
    - Begin in February ~every 2 weeks
    - Increase to weekly ~mid April
    - At least twice weekly in warm weather
    - September ~weekly
    - October ~every 2 weeks
    - November – January ~monthly
  - Overhead water vs drip

Pruning

- Purpose is to keep bushes young and vigorous
- Mid to late March
- One-time bloomers – later spring after they bloom
- Remove debris from base of plant
- Remove old, damaged, crossing canes, and dead, diseased, or twiggy wood
- Look at the bush and envision a bowl shape
- Encourage air circulation and sun penetration throughout
- Rule of thumb: remove one-half to one-third of growth
- Make 45-degree angle cut ¼” above outward facing bud eyes
- Keep tools clean and sharp
- Seal large diameter cane cuts with school glue
- Deadhead to encourage vigorous blooming

Pests and Diseases

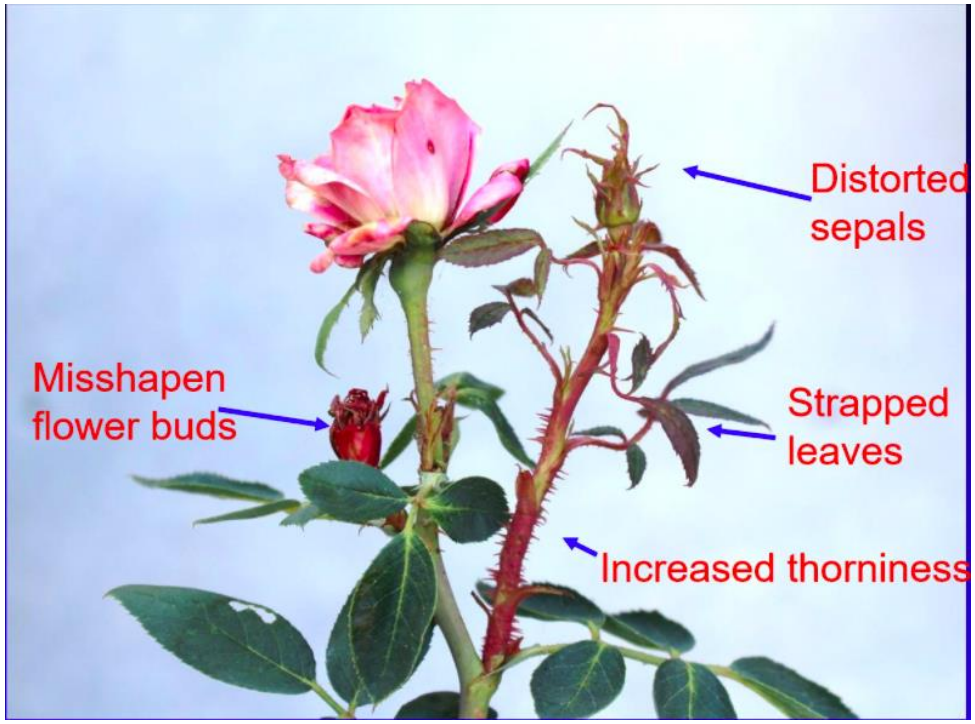
- Pests
  - Aphids
  - Carpenter Bees
  - Chili Thrips
  - Leafcutters
  - Spider Mites
  - Thrips

- Diseases
  - Anthracnose
  - Blackspot
  - Chlorosis
  - Gall
  - Mosaic
  - Powdery Mildew
  - Rose Rosette

- Natural remedies may be enough

- If you spray, use caution—water first, follow directions, protect yourself

Symptoms of Rose Rosette Disease



Where to Find More Information

- Master Gardener Hotline, 505-243-1386
- Email ABQRoseSociety@gmail.com
- "Growing Roses in Albuquerque" booklet available from the rose society
- Pruning Demos in March
- Local Nurseries
- Deadheading at the Tony Hillerman Library – Albuquerque Rose Garden

Thank you!

Questions?