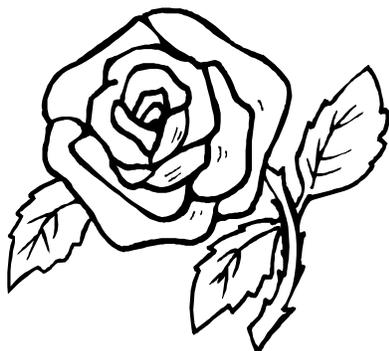


Unique Garden Centre



OVER-WINTERING TENDER ROSES

Winter protection is absolutely necessary for tender roses on the Prairies. Hybrid teas, Grandifloras and Floribundas do not fully prepare for winter as our native plants do. They grow and bloom continually until severe cold brings them to a halt. This makes them vulnerable to winter kill. Do not fertilize after August 15th, and restrict water after late August to help them harden for the winter.

If the soil is dry in late fall, soak well after October 20th. The rose canes should then be cut down to a 10 – 12” height, thinning out to leave 5 – 7 canes, spaced equally and radiating in all directions. Remove any leaves which may still be present. If there is any concern about disease, dusting the canes with a fungicide and insecticide dust, will reduce disease development over the covered period. Placing mouse bait at the base of the canes can reduce feeding injury if you suspect the possibility of infestation.

The bud graft union requires the most protection. If your roses were planted with the union above ground level, than it is important to cover the bud graft union with insulating material to a minimum depth of 10 – 12”. Dry peat moss or sawdust or wood shavings or a combination of all three are excellent in preventing freezing and thawing. If wind is a problem, cover the hills with hay, straw or burlap, tying or staking in place. A good snow cover adds considerable protection. Throughout the winter continually check the degree of snow cover, shoveling additional around and above your wrapped roses.

Removal of the protective covering should begin between April 12 and April 20, using the swelling of native tree buds as an indicator. Gradually remove sawdust or peatmoss from around canes during the time when tree buds begin to show green leaves emerging. If a threatening frost occurs after roses are uncovered, recover canes with burlap, tarps or blankets.