

# Planting The Melville Rose's Way

Rose Care Notes Rob Melville-0419964819 [www.rosengardenperth.com](http://www.rosengardenperth.com)

## When to Plant.....

Planting roses may take place at any time of the year however autumn is ideal. In very hot weather it is preferable to plant late in the afternoon. Remember you **MUST water every day when the roses are young, sometimes twice or more if very hot.**

**Spacing and where to Planting.....** Roses require a minimum of 6 hours of sun a day to perform their best. Roses are happiest away from invasive tree roots in an open position, they don't like heavy competition but love friends such as other cottage perennials and salvias. Distance a-part is important for many reasons, over planting can cause you issues further down the track and cost you more to try and achieve the instant look, patience is your friend the joy of gardening is often watching things develop and mature, knowing you've been part of it and it also gives you a chance to change your mind between stages. Plants need friends just like people however no one really enjoys a close talker!!! having a little bit of space lets the plant enjoy free air movement, not too much root commotion from bigger plants and lovely rounded sun shine that will be the thing that mostly shapes your plant into a nice busy even chap (if that its genetic makeup) trees often steal the water and food its like putting a toddler in with teenagers!) so when you look at the display gardens you will notice smaller cottage plants are great friends for shrubs and roses. You must decide what your feature plants are and plant accordingly. As a general guide small growing roses are best at 70cm apart, medium roses are suitable to 1m apart, large arching growing roses can have a little more room 1.2m, standards are best at 1.2m also as they are usually a feature in the garden. Climbers are best to be as far apart as their spread is so if they grow to 3m they should be planted 3m apart. We often like to plant in zig zag fashion rather than a straight line and use odd numbers unless you are wanting a very formal look and straight is your design.

**Watering.....WATER WATER WATER** a minimum of 5 Litres per day for the roses first summer in very hot weather (30o Celsius plus) water at least twice a day, more if they are in pots. Try to water as late as possible in the morning so the water is available. If its too early in the morning or late at night they are sleeping. Its very hard to feed a sleeping baby! so do it as late in the morning as possible maybe from 9am onwards and then again when its hot in the afternoon. Water is absolute key when all plants are young. The garden needs you most in summer so get out there when its hot and give them a shower all over their leaves it cools the whole plant down and gives it a little more water when its really needed. Think to yourself the rain comes from above all over the world in various climates it doesn't burn the leaves, We don't really know who came up with that!

**Soil Preparation.....**Prepare the hole to a depth of .5m. Use 1 bag of Melville Rose's Planting Mix which contains everything the rose requires

**alternatively a)** half a bag of good quality potting mix and half a bag of sheep manure mixed together per rose bush.

**alternatively b)** if unable to use potting mix use 3 parts sheep manure to 1 part of your existing garden soil.

**How to Plant.....**Having dug the .5m hole add half the bag of potting mix etc and 2 handfuls of '**slow release**' fertiliser no other type of fertiliser can be put at the bottom of a plant we

recommend Osmocote for Roses (9 month). Place your rose bush into the hole so that the graft is above the soil line, backfill with rest of bag. Stake until established. **Water in thoroughly.** Do not fertilise at this time as you have already applied the slow release **ONLY SLOW RELEASE FERTILISER CAN BE APPLIED UNDER ANY PLANT NEVER QUICK RELEASE FERTILISER OF ANY KIND**

**Mulching.....**Mulching is very beneficial to roses it helps keep the root-run cool, prevents weeds and helps reduce water consumption. After winter pruning we recommend a layer of sheep manure to combat our sandy soils topped off with lupin mulch or pea-hay applied to a depth of 50-75 mm, as the mulch breaks down nitrogen is released into the soil slowly feeding the roses. Other forms of mulch will pull nitrogen out of the soil.

**Fertilising.....**After winter pruning fertilising can commence once the rose has put on about 5cm of new growth. Roses respond well to regular feeding every 4 to 6 weeks. Last feed April mid autumn to get a good flush of flowers then the plants can start slowing down ready for dormancy and their winter prune. An 'all-purpose' garden fertiliser such as Black Marvel should give a good balance of flowers and foliage. 2 handfuls for a two+ year old plant. 1 handful for a young plant sprinkled around the base.

**Standard and Weeping Roses.....**Standards should be firmly secured to a stake strong enough to support the weight of a mature standard or weeper and long enough to pass up through the graft point into the head of the standard therefore securing the top as it will become top heavy as it grows. A metal stake is recommended (star picket).

**Must Pot Up Or Plant in Ground...**When purchasing a plant from 'Melville Roses' the plant is supplied in a pot that is a vessel for us to grow in. The plant must be either potted into a larger pot (minimum 50cm) or planted directly into the garden using premium potting mix, It can't be left in the pot that its grown in it is too small and can't supply the plant with enough nutrition and water

**Staking.....**If your rose leaves the nursery having a stake please ensure you plant it either in the ground or chosen pot with its stake in place. This is to protect the graft and stabilise the root system. We recommend replacing the stake with a stronger one (such as a Jarrah picket) as the plant grows and develops.

**Roses in Pots.....**Things to think about should you decide to put your roses in large pots instead of in the ground. Minimum sized pot 50cmx50cm. They will require more attention and observation as they are the equivalent to a 'bird in a cage. Remembering this analogy ..... the bigger the bird (ROSE) the bigger the cage (POT). They are never independent being caged (POTTED) they have no ability to source their own food and water therefore a little extra care is required, but it is worth it :)

All Roses sold by Melville Roses are sent out in good condition. We cannot accept responsibility for any rose that fails through the negligence of care or horticultural inexperience. To attempt to avoid this, all of our roses are despatched with a comprehensive rose care guide. If there is a problem or the purchaser requires advice or assistance at a later date we are only too pleased to help and offer free advice please call us ASAP. All our roses are outdoor plants and are not to be kept indoors at any time. Flower appearances ie colour may be affected by conditions such as temperature, soil makeup, sunlight etc Enjoy your garden and beautiful ROSES!!!!