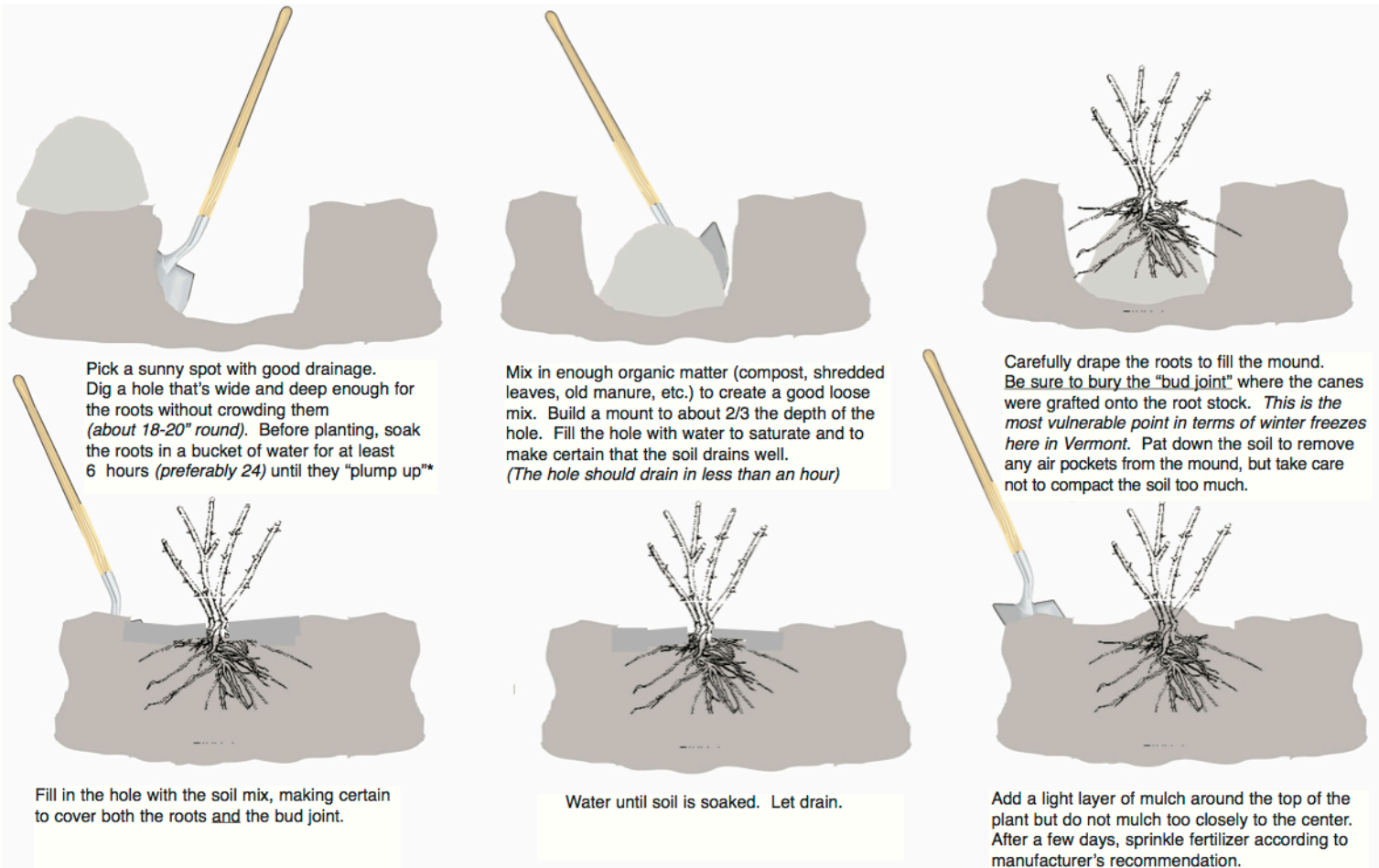


Planting & Caring for Bare-Root Roses

Once you bring your roses home, **as soon as possible**, place them in a bucket of water until you're ready to plant them. You can keep them in water, up to a 1-2 weeks if they're in a cool or shaded location. Add fresh water as needed. Then select a location in your garden that gets at least 3-5 hours of sun a day. Dig a hole that is about 18" - 20" round and deep, and follow instructions below for planting.

After planting, water in thoroughly, ensuring that there is enough water to moisten all the soil in the hole. When watering, apply deeply, allowing the water to penetrate to the root zone. Roses love moist but not soggy soil. Normally a good soaking of water once or twice per week is better than a light sprinkling of water every day. Water at the base of the plant rather than on the leaves to reduce the risk of mildew (*true of most plants*). The best time to water is normally in the morning. You can also mulch lightly (1-2") around your roses to keep the soil moist and weeds at bay.

About a week after planting, apply fertilizer, (preferably a time-released fertilizer, such as Osmocote®), or standard rose food. Fish emulsion is also a good natural rose food. **NOTE: feeding during the planting process is not recommended, as it could burn the roots so wait at least a week and sprinkle around the top inch or so only.** If you have any compost or OLD, composted manure, you could add that into the planting hole though.



*This "Plumbing up" process is crucial! Also, if planting late in the season (after April/May) or in hot conditions, be sure to water daily for the first few weeks, until signs of life begin to show. If not well-watered while re-establishing themselves under stressful conditions, bare-root roses can "fry" and die.

Caring for Your Roses

There's no need to do any fancy pruning of these roses, but you can deadhead (cut off dead flowers) to clean them up a bit if you'd prefer. High temperatures will reduce blooming for a while, but you will often get blooms on these roses throughout the season and into early Fall.

Feed throughout the summer based on your fertilizer instructions, **but do not feed beyond mid-August, as it will deter the plants from going into their required dormancy period.**

In humid conditions, a weekly spray with a systemic chemical fungicide helps keep the plants flowering at their best and the foliage looking good, **but is not required.**

An Organic alternative to sprays:

In half a bucket of water, add 3 level teaspoons full of baking soda, and 2-3 splashes of fish emulsion (liquid fish fertilizer). Spray this on your roses weekly. The bicarbonate of soda is a fungal preventative, and the fish emulsion helps make it stick, PLUS adds a good dose of fertilizer too, and all in the right proportion.

IN LATE FALL, add a few inches of mulch or leaves around the base of your roses to protect them.

IN EARLY SPRING (about the time daffodils start to come up), move the mulch or leaves from around the plant to allow the ground to warm up. Then, using any sharp pruners, cut your bush back to about 1/3rd its size and add 2 handfuls of flower / rose fertilizer, mixing into the first few inches of soil. Once the plant begins to leaf out, trim back any remaining dead branches or the tops of the branches that have no leaf growth.

Other possible pest issues:

We're susceptible to Japanese beetles in this area. If you find them on your roses, fill a coffee can with hot soapy water and handpick them off the roses and drop into water. If you don't mind using chemical fertilizers, both Ortho and Bayer Advance make systemic fertilizers that also combat Japanese beetles and other insects.

However, the best long-term solution to serious Japanese Beetle problems is Milky Spore®, which is a non-toxic way to rid your lawn of grubs for years, and is carried at most garden centers.