



LANDSCAPE  
GARDENING  
SERIES



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# Rose Culture

## Finding the Right Site

Roses do best when they get at least 6 hours of direct sun per day. Morning sun dries the foliage earliest in the day, which may be wet from overnight rainfall or morning dew. Dampness can encourage fungal diseases, so to prevent problems provide adequate sunshine and air circulation around each plant.

## Preventing Rose Diseases

The best way to control fungal diseases is to prevent them. Water early in the morning, avoid wetting the leaves, provide good air circulation and be vigilant! When that fails, institute a preventive fungicidal spray program.

### Watch for Aphids

Here's a novel way of removing aphids from the buds on rose bushes: Soak a cotton cloth in soapy water. Surround the aphid-infested bud with the cloth, then clasp gently as you pull the cloth away from the bud. The aphids wipe off nicely.

### Keep Them Clean!

Remove any diseased foliage from on or under rose plants. Hand pick any leaves that show indication of the fungus diseases **rust** or **black spot**. Keep the surface of the soil under rose plants clean and raked up to prevent the spread of fungus diseases. Do not compost diseased leaves.

### Mid-Season Pruning

Lightly go over your rose plants with sharp, clean pruning shears to improve air circulation and to shape plants. Remove any stems or branches that cross through the center of the plant. Cut down tall stems to retain overall shape and remove any sign of **fireblight**. Clean shears after pruning with a Lysol solution to prevent the spread of disease.

### Controlling Rose Beetles

Apply neem oil early in the morning for control of rose beetles. Beetles spread disease and should be controlled. Encouraging birds to come into your garden is another excellent way to keep beetles under control.

### Check Container-Grown Roses

Make sure the drainage holes are not blocked on roses growing in containers. Roots will rot if left standing in water. Turn pots on their sides and use a screwdriver or thin bladed knife to free the drain hole from protruding roots or debris.

### Fertilize Indoor Miniatures

If you have miniature roses growing indoors, they'll perform best with a constant diet of nutrients. Use a water-soluble fertilizer as directed on the label. Apply to moistened, not dry, potting soil. Discard excess liquid that accumulates in the drainage saucer.

### Watch for Aphids

Miniature roses indoors can be attacked by aphids. These pests tend to cluster on tender growth at the tips of stems and flower buds. Pinch off infested portions, and discard in the trash. You also can wash aphids off the plants with tepid water from the faucet. Repeat as often as necessary.