How to Grow Roses in Greenhouses

by Teo Spengler, Demand Media

Roses are the country's national flower as well as the royalty of the home garden. Their reputation for requiring tender loving care makes it easy to think of roses as vulnerable plants requiring shelter and protection. Growing your favorites in a greenhouse has many advantages, including protecting the plants from wind, weather and pests, but indoor growing requires a gardener's active and regular involvement. Those tasks often left to or shared with nature, like irrigation, are left solely in your hands. For many gardeners, the joys of caring for indoor roses far outweigh any inconvenience.

1
Plant your roses in the fall in containers at least 9 inches wide across the rim. Spread 1 to 2 inches of small rocks or broken crockery in the bottom of each pot to ensure free water drainage. Fill each pot halfway with well-draining potting soil, ideally that designed for roses. Put in the rose plants and add soil to just below the graft point; if the rose grows on its own root stock, add soil to the faint mark on the rose stem indicating the soil level in its prior planting. Water well.
2
Move the containers to the greenhouse and place them in a sunny location. Indoors or out, roses need at least six hours of direct sun every day. Arrange the plants so that they do not shade each other. Space the containers at least 6 inches apart to provide adequate air flow.
3
Prune the rose bushes severely after planting. Trim each branch to about 3 inches from the main stem. Make each cut just above a lateral outside-facing bud.
4
Water your rose plants sufficiently to keep the soil moist. The amount of water necessary will depend upon the weather; sunnier, hotter days dry out the soil more than foggy, moist ones. Never allow the water to touch the stems or leaves. When new growth begins, fertilize with a water-soluble rose food every two weeks, applied according to label directions.
5
Maintain the greenhouse temperature at around 60 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and 40 degrees at night. Mulch your rose containers with a 2-inch layer of compost or shredded leaves to help maintain soil temperature and humidity.

Things You Will Need

- Containers
- Small rocks or broken crockery
- Potting soil
- Garden clippers
- Water-soluble rose fertilizer
- Compost or shredded leaves

Tip

Choose your container rose varieties with an eye to your climate and the size of your greenhouse. Many compact roses grow well in greenhouses.

Warning

Although growing roses in a greenhouse is likely to cut down attacks by snails and slugs, indoor roses are subject to other pests and diseases. Select disease-resistant rose cultivars to reduce the problem and follow the recommendations of the Statewide Integrated Pest Management program to reduce pesticide use in the greenhouse.

http://homeguides.sfgate.com/grow-roses-greenhouses-50623.html

Spider Mites

Mites are common pests in landscapes and gardens that feed on many fruit trees, vines, berries, vegetables, and ornamental plants. Although related to insects, mites aren't insects but members of the arachnid class along with spiders and ticks. Spider mites, also called webspinning mites, are the most common mite pests and among the most ubiquitous of all pests in the garden and on the farm.

Damage

Mites cause damage by sucking cell contents from leaves. A small number of mites usually isn't reason for concern, but very high populations—levels high enough to show visible damage to leaves—can damage plants, especially herbaceous ones. At first, the damage shows up as a stippling of light dots on the leaves; sometimes the leaves take on a bronze color. As feeding continues, the leaves turn yellowish or reddish and drop off. Often, large amounts of webbing cover leaves, twigs, and fruit. Damage is usually worse when compounded by water stress.

Loss of leaves won't cause yield losses in fruit trees during the year of infestation unless it occurs in spring or very early summer, but it may impact next year's crop. On annual vegetable crops—such as squash, melons, and watermelons—loss of leaves can have a significant impact on yield and lead to sunburning. On crops such as sugar peas and beans, where pods are attacked, spider mites can cause direct damage. On ornamentals, mites are primarily an aesthetic concern, but they can kill plants if populations become very high on annual plants. Spider mites are also important pests of field-grown roses.

Management

Spider mites have many natural enemies that often limit populations. Adequate irrigation is important, because water-stressed plants are most likely to be damaged. Broad-spectrum insecticide treatments for other pests frequently cause mite outbreaks, so avoid these pesticides when possible. Sprays of water, insecticidal oils, or soaps can be used for management. Always monitor mite levels before treatment.

Chemical Control

Spider mites frequently become a problem after applying insecticides. Such outbreaks are commonly a result of the insecticide killing off the mites' natural enemies but also occur when certain insecticides stimulate mite reproduction. Insecticides applied during hot weather usually appear to have the greatest effect, causing dramatic spider mite outbreaks within a few days.

If a treatment for mites is necessary, use selective materials, preferably insecticidal soap or insecticidal oil. Don't use soaps or oils on water-stressed plants or when temperatures exceed 90°F. These materials may injure some plants, so check labels and/or test them out on a portion of the foliage several days before applying a full treatment. Oils and soaps must contact mites to kill them, so excellent coverage, especially on the undersides of leaves, is essential, and repeat applications may be required.

Sulfur sprays can be used on some vegetables, fruit trees, and ornamentals. Don't use sulfur unless it has been shown to be safe for that plant in your locality. Use liquid products such as sulfur and potash soap combinations rather than sulfur dusts, which drift easily and can be breathed in. Don't use sulfur if temperatures exceed 90°F, and don't apply sulfur within 30 days of an oil spray. Sulfur is a skin irritant and eye and respiratory hazard, so always wear appropriate protective clothing.

http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7405.html