



Rose Care & New Roses from Cuttings

This is intended to be more of a “when to...” than a “how to...” list. All these dates are approximate and will vary from year to year due to weather conditions, soils and garden locations.

April		Notes
	Remove protection gradually	
	Water, using spray to wash canes clean	
	Remove all debris, including chickweed	
	Spray with all purpose spray; cover ground also. Repeat if rain washes off before 6 hours drying time has passed.	
May		
	Prune established plants as soon as leaf buds show first signs of growth; cut to live wood (whitish green center). Prune all roses except climbers.	
	Mulch heavily.	
	Plant bare-rooted bushes; mound dirt around canes until growth starts.	
	Select feeding plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 times – May, June, November, or...• 4 times – May, June, July, August, or...• Semi-monthly (one should be foliar). Use 5-10-5 or equivalent in all feedings.	
	Add compost or humus to bed.	
	Disbud canes intended for show; continue through June as growth warrants.	
	Spray weekly for blackspot and powdery mildew; use general purpose spray.	
June		
	Plant potted roses up to early September.	
	Trim to remove all suckers, dead wood and small blind shoots; cut longer blind shoots back to third set of five-leaflets.	
	Continue weekly spray program.	
	Cut blooms; leave at least 2 leaves between cut and main stem.	
	Fertilize as planned.	
	Cultivate lightly, if you do not mulch.	

July		Notes
	Spray weekly.	
	Fertilize regularly as planned.	
	Water as necessary; do not wet leaves.	
	Remove sucker canes as soon as identified by totally different flower and growth from below bud graft.	
Aug. & Sept.		
	Cut flowers with shorter stems during this mid-summer rest period. Plants need all the foliage they can get to produce food.	
	Spray weekly but not when temperatures are 85° or over.	
	Cut faded flowers promptly after bloom; remove 3-6" of stem.	
	Water if rainfall does not provide 1" of water every 10 days. Do not wet leaves.	
October		
	Choose type of winter protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hill canes with 10-12" of soil, or... • Cover with evergreen boughs, or... • Cover with plastic rose cones, 15" or 24" • "Minnesota tip" – especially for tree roses. 	
	Prepare beds for next year.	
	Fall planting possible after heavy frost.	
November		
	Provide winter protection.	
	Prune off long canes so they won't be whipped by wind.	

Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete, and up-to-date pest management information for New York State. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, and human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Trade names used herein are for convenience only. No endorsement of products is intended, nor is criticism of unnamed products implied.

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