

Planting Drift® Roses

Follow these simple steps to plant your Drift® rose!

Step 1: Pick a Sunny Place to Plant

Your rose bush will need at least 6 hours of sun each day, so choose a sunny spot to plant.

Step 2: Dig a Large Hole

Dig a hole slightly larger than the container. Work the soil at the bottom of the hole with your shovel so that it is loose and aerated.

Step 3: Remove Rose from its Container

Remove the Drift® Rose from its container. Use your hands to gently loosen the roots at the bottom of the plant.

Step 4: Plant your Rose in Ground

Place the plant in the hole, ensuring that the base of the plant is level with the soil.

Step 5: Fill in Soil around Plant

Add soil back to the hole around the plant. Crumble the soil so that it is nice and aerated. If desired, mulch around the plant.

Step 6: Water Rose until Established

Water your Drift® Rose thoroughly around the base of the plant, allowing it to soak in. Repeat as necessary. For the next couple of weeks, check in and water the plant as needed to ensure it stays healthy.

Pruning Drift® Roses

Follow these simple steps to prune your Drift® rose!

Step 1: Know the proper time

Prune your rose bush in early spring, never in the fall and never in the winter. Check your rose bush from time to time as spring moves along and when you start to see new shoots growing from the canes on your rose bush, that's a good sign that it is time to prune.

Step 2: Use proper tools

You will need a few basic tools when the time comes to prune your roses: gloves, because of the thorns on your rose bush. Lopping shears, for some of the heavier canes that are going to be difficult to cut with some of the smaller shears. Small hand shears, for some of the finer work, and a pair of hedge trimmers to get the job done quickly.

Step 3: Determine how high you want to prune

Determining how high you want to prune depends on how high you want your rose bush to finish. Your rose bush will usually triple in size after pruning so we recommend cutting it back by about 2/3.

Dead Heading Drift® Roses

Step 1. Determine which blooms you'd like to get rid of

You want to leave the blooms that are still colorful and not dried out. Look for the blooms that have turned brown and crunchy.

Step 2. Find the five-leaflet set

Before cutting, look down the stem of the rose you are wanting to get rid of and look for a five-leaflet set (five full leaves together). You want to make your cut just above the first five-leaflet set that you see.

Step 3. Make the cut

Make the cut just above the first five-leaflet set and continue cutting out the spent blooms until you are happy with how your rose bush looks.

How to Prepare Drift® Roses for Winter

Drift® Roses are incredibly tough and can make it through almost anything, long winters included. If you do live in an area with harsh winters, there are a few things to try that will help your roses flourish in the spring.

In ground:

Add 2-3" of mulch, leaves, or pine boughs around the base of the plant. Don't panic if you are in an area that receives a lot of snow! A heavy snow cover will actually help insulate and protect the plant through the winter. Since the winter winds can be especially drying to plants, consider wrapping the plant with burlap to retain moisture. In spring, be sure to remove any extra mulch that may be covering the plant too deeply and trim out any dead or broken canes. Also, remove any burlap or protective covering that you may have used to wrap the plant.

In container:

To start, leave the containers outside through the first few frosts of the season, then bring them inside and store in a cool, dark area such as your basement or garage. If you store your containers in the garage, remember to protect them from the winter temperatures that can come in as you open and close the door. Keep your containers inside until the threat of the last frost has passed (typically in early spring). You'll want to check your roses periodically to make sure they don't dry out completely. If they do start to dry out, water them lightly.

Fertilizing Drift® Roses

Are you wondering when you should fertilize your roses? The good news is that Drift® Roses will perform beautifully even without fertilizing! However, if you choose to give them an additional boost, it's very important not to fertilize until after the roses are established and go through one bloom cycle.

Here are some additional tips:

1. Use a balanced fertilizer or fertilizer formulated for roses from your local garden center and apply after the first wave of flowering (be sure to follow the specified rates and method of application provided on the product label).
2. Make sure the soil is moist before you fertilize to avoid burning the roots.
3. Do not fertilize late in the summer as this is the time the rose should be preparing themselves for dormancy and you do not want to create unnecessary new growth that will likely die back from the first hard frost.