

What is a Bare-root rose?

Bare-Root roses are roses in their dormant state and are sold with no soil and only a few bare canes.

Why get a bare-root rose?

First and foremost, they cost less than a potted rose and are easier to ship. This means you can buy unique or rare roses online for up to half the price you would pay for a potted one. They will also often flower in their first year in the garden.

When and where do I get one?

Bare-root roses normally start showing up in stores and at nurseries in late November, early December and will hang around until April or May. You can also buy them at any time from many rose growers online, but they will only ship in winter and spring.

Okay, I bought one, now what?

Planting a Bare-root anything is a bit different than what most of us are used to. First thing is to decide if it is too cold to plant. Not usually a problem in our area but if the spot you have in mind frequently gets frost it may be best to plant the rose in a pot and wait for the frost danger to pass.

Planting Your Rose

Step 1: Rehydrate your rose

Soak your rose for a minimum of 2 hours - maximum of 12 hours in a bucket of cold water. If you want you can add some quick start into the water.

Step 2: Trim off any broken roots or damaged canes.

Step 3: Dig the hole

Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the rose, approximately 16" wide by 16" deep or the size of a five gallon pot.

Step 4: Break the soil at the base of your hole.

Work the soil beneath the hole to a depth of an additional foot while working in plenty of compost or rotted manure.

Step 5: Make a small mound of dirt at the bottom of the hole.

Step 6: Position the rose and spread its roots over the mound.

In our climate plant the grafting union (bud union) 1 to 2 inches above the soil level.

Step 7: Backfill and firm-in

Backfill around the roots, using a mix of the soil that was originally dug out of the hole with compost and refill the hole halfway, firming it as you go. Water well. Then fill the remaining half and create a berm by mounding up soil in a circle around the rose to collect water. Water again.