

# "THE ABC'S OF ROSES"

## An Overview of Growing Roses in Central Florida

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### PARTIAL LIST OF GOOD ROSES FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

#### HYBRID TEAS/GRANDIFLORAS

Bride's Dream  
Dainty Bess  
**Elina**  
**Gold Medal**  
Let Freedom Ring  
**Louise Estes**  
Mr. Lincoln  
**Rina Hugo**  
Sweet Surrender

Cherry Parfait  
Double Delight  
**Gemini**  
**Hot Princess**  
Lemon Spice  
**Moonstone**  
Perfectly Red  
St. Patrick  
Veterans Honor

#### FLORIBUNDAS

Angel Face  
**Fabulous**  
**Miss Ada**  
Our Lady  
of Guadalupe

Europeana  
**Honey Bouquet**  
**Playgirl**  
**Sunflare**

#### CLIMBING ROSES

Altissimo  
**Clair Matin**  
Fourth of July

Blossomtime  
Don Juan

#### OLD GARDEN ROSES

Blush Noisette.  
Duchess de Brabant  
Eugene Marlitt  
Francis Dubreuil  
Kronprinzessin Viktoria  
Louis Phillippe  
**Marchessa Bochella**  
Mrs. B. R. Cant  
Old Blush  
Paul Neyron  
Pink Pet  
**Rose de Rescht**  
**Sombreuil**  
**Souvenir de la Malmaison**

#### SHRUB ROSES

**Abraham Darby**  
Belinda's Dream  
Dortmund  
**Knockout**  
Molineux  
**Prosperity**  
**The Dark Lady**

Alnwick Castle  
English Garden  
Heritage  
L.D. Braithwaite  
**Pretty Jessica**  
**Scepter'd Isle**

#### MINIATURE / MINIFLORA ROSES

Autumn Splendor  
Buttercream  
**Fairhope**  
Hilde  
**Miss Flippins**  
**Peggy T**  
**Simplex**

Bee's Knees  
Conundrum  
Figurine  
Kristin  
Olympic Gold  
**Pierrine**  
**Tiffany Lynn**

### Sources for Fortuniana Grafted Roses

(Nelsons, Jackson & Perkins, and Weeks Roses)

#### Orlando Area:

Apenberry's 407-841-3088  
Blodgetts 407-295-2363  
Crossley 407-855-0145  
Janie Cook's Roses 407-889-0964  
Lukas 407-365-6163

#### Mail Order: (call or email for list of available roses)

**Cool Roses for Southern Gardens**, West Palm  
561-684-2421 email: info@coolroses.com  
Web page: Coolroses.com

**K&M Nursery**, Buckatunna, MS  
601-648-2908 email: millrose@netpathway.com

### ... A Few Sources for Rose Supplies

If you cannot locate items at area garden centers you may want to try:

**Pro Source**, Apopka, 407-668-4744 - Complete line of spray chemicals, fertilizers (Sul-Po-Mag, gypsum, magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts), Fafard products.

**Rittenhouse Supply** - 1-877-488-1914,  
<http://www.rittenhouse.ca/> Kelway Soil pH meter (\$48) ;  
Kelway HB-2 pH soil/moisture meter (\$127)

**Rosemania.com** (mail order) -- Web site: Rosemania.com  
phone 888-600-9665. Kelway HB-2 pH soil/moisture meter (\$115), Crysal Floral Preservative, spray materials

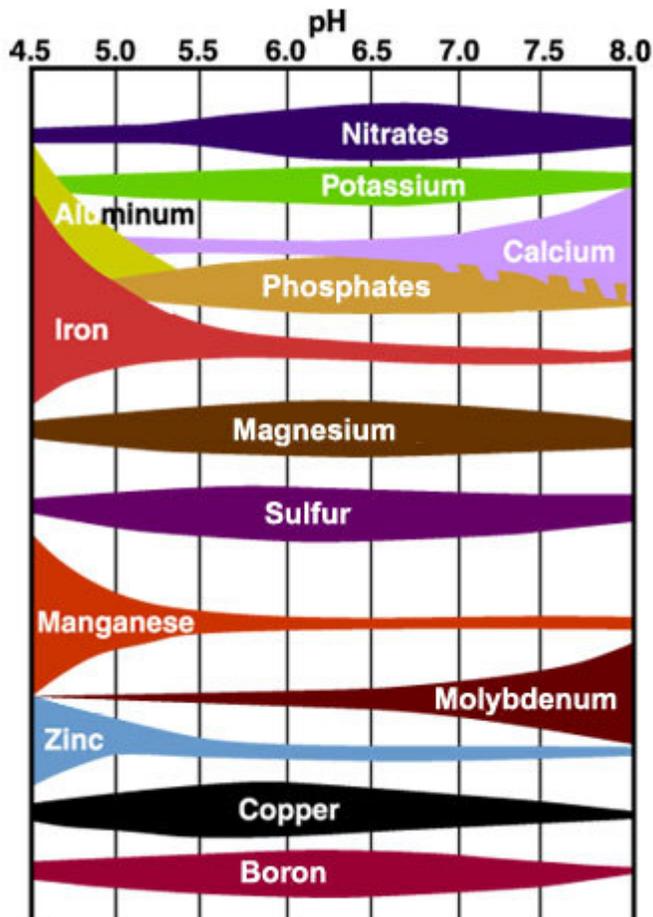
**The Yard Stop**, Eustis, 352-357-9964 - Source of fresh mushroom compost by the yard.

**Monterey Mushroom Farm**, Apopka, 407-905-4000 -  
Source of fresh mushroom compost by the yard..

**King's Services, Apopka**, 407-886-3838 -- Will build custom sprayers or customize your sprayer with longer hose, wand, fan nozzle (T-jet #8002), etc.

**Farm & Home Supply Center** - 509-269-4404 -- ARS 7" Hand Pruners Model # 130DX - \$27.39  
[www.farm-home.com](http://www.farm-home.com)

## SOIL PH AND IT'S EFFECT ON NUTRIENT UPTAKE IN ROSES



### SOIL TESTING

**County Agricultural Centers** -- Most County centers perform pH tests on certain days of the week. Call for details.

**Independent Garden Centers** -- Most have the capability to perform pH testing. Call your favorite garden center for details.

**A&L Southern Agricultural Labs** -- 954-972-3255

**pH testing** - \$4.00 per sample

**Complete Soil Analysis** - (Request a S7 test) is \$26.40 with recommendations per sample; \$24.40 without recommendations.

Call A&L Labs for further information

### Raising pH

If the pH is too low (below 5.5) we can elevate it by adding lime -- I recommend fine-ground dolomite limestone. To be called dolomite lime, it must contain at least 2% magnesium.

The amount of lime which needs to be applied to bring the pH into the proper range (5.7 to 6.5) depends on how low the pH is and also the soil type. The higher percentage of clay and organic substances, the more lime is needed. Sandy soil needs a comparatively less amount. In our sandy soils that have been improved by adding 5% organics (by weight) the amount of lime generally needed to raise the pH by one point (say from 5.0 to 6.0) is approximately two cups per bush (based on bushes being planted on 5 foot centers).

The particle size of ground limestone is the key factor in how fast the lime will act in the soil. Look at the back of your lime bag for the table of screen analysis. Very coarse materials require a half a year or more to show any upward results. The particles passing through a 100-mesh screen require only weeks. I prefer "James River Dolomite Lime," whose label shows that 75% of the particles will pass through a 100 mesh screen.

When applying lime, spread evenly around the bush from the shank to the drip line and water in well.

### Lowering pH

Soil pH is made lower by adding sulfur. Home gardeners usually use powdered elemental sulfur to lower soil pH. When soil sulfur is applied it is transformed into sulfuric acid by soil bacteria.. Soil bacteria take 6 to 8 weeks to change the sulfur to sulfuric acid. As with all bacterial activity, the reaction goes faster in warm, moist soil and slower in dry or cold soils.

I would apply no more than 4 tablespoons of elemental sulfur at a time. If too much sulfur is applied at one time the sulfuric acid can burn the roots of your bushes and cause the plant to decline. An application of too much sulfur can also cause your pH to drop below the desired level.

If your pH is say, 7.0 or above, apply 4 tablespoons. If it is 6.8 to 7.0, apply 2 tablespoons. Scatter the sulfur evenly around the bush from the shank to the drip line and water in well. Then wait six weeks and retest the pH. If after 6 weeks the pH has not dropped into the desired range (5.7 to 6.5) again apply a small amount of elementals sulfur and test again in another six weeks. The key here is small applications to lower the pH gradually into the desired range.

**Rose Feeding:** Roses are heavy feeders and thrive on frequent but light applications of fertilizer. For a basic fertilizing program, during the regular growing season, from March through October, feed every two weeks with a complete rose fertilizer giving each bush 1/4 to 1/2 cup spread evenly around the bush from the shank to out past the drip line. (I do not recommend one that contains a systemic insecticide). An alternate, more organic method of fertilizing is given below.

<p><b>MY BASIC FEEDING PLAN</b> -- First and foremost make sure your pH is in the desired range (5.7 - 6.5) and adjust if necessary. If the pH is not in the proper range, fertilizers will not be absorbed correctly by the rose bushes. Some elements may be too available, others not available in adequate quantities. My current fertilizer program is based on 10 years of soil reports. The basic program is outlined below. This calls for feeding the roses two times each month - March thru October - and one time each month the rest of the year. The start date is based on the spring pruning date - (below is based on pruning around the end of February/beginning of March).</p> <p><b>End of January</b> - about 30 days before spring pruning. Apply 1/2 cup of Epsom salts per bush.</p> <p><b>Mid February</b> - about two weeks before spring pruning. Apply 2 cups of Purely Organic Rose Mix (Mills Magic Rose Mix can be substituted) plus 1/4 cup of Sul-Po-Mag per bush.</p> <p><b>Mid March</b> - (immediately after pruning) apply a high phosphorus drench such as Shultz 10-60-10 bloom booster, Peters 9-45-15, etc. (where the middle number in the NPK formula is much higher than the nitrogen (first number) or the potassium (last number)).</p> <p><b>Late April and Late August</b> - Apply Osmocote 15-9-12 with minors, 5-6 month release. 1 cup large bushes, 1/2 cup smaller bushes. (Apply Osmocote with the April and August Sul-Po-Mag feeding).</p>	<p><b>Every 60 days, (every other month) March thru October*</b> Apply 2-3 cups Milorganite, 1/2 to 1 cup gypsum, 1/4 to 1/2 cup Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom salts). (Smaller amounts for smaller bushes ... larger amounts for larger bushes).</p> <p><b>Every 30 days, March through January **</b> Apply 2 to 4 tablespoons of Sul-Po-Mag. (Smaller amounts for smaller bushes ... larger amounts for larger bushes). Water in Well.</p> <p><b><u>SUGGESTED TIMING:</u></b></p> <p>*For example, beginning on March 30th apply the Milorganite, gypsum and Epsom salts. Do this <b><u>every other month</u></b> on the 30th (approximately near that date) -- March Thru October.</p> <p>** On the 15th of every month - March through January, apply 2 to 4 tablespoons of Sul-Po-Mag (smaller amount for smaller bushes ... larger amount for larger bushes).</p> <p><u>Try to space feedings out with two weeks in between them.</u></p> <p><b>NOTE: ALWAYS WATER BEDS WELL BEFORE APPLYING ANY TYPE OF FERTILIZER - AND AGAIN LIGHTLY AFTER APPLYING.</b></p>
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**Jim Small's Recommended Spray Formulations**

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Dosage per Gallon</b>
Blackspot and other fungi	Funginex (Ortho® RosePride® Rose & Shrub Disease Control) <b>or</b> Cleary's 3336 <b>or</b> Banner Maxx <b>Plus one of the following:</b> Dithane T/O, <b>or</b> Dithane M-45, <b>or</b> Manzate 200	1 TBSP 1 TSP  1/2 TSP  1 TBSP
Powdery Mildew	Immunox <b>or</b> Rubigan <b>or</b> Systhane <b>or</b> Eagle 20 EW	2 TBS 1/2 TSP 1/4 TSP 1/3 to 2/3 TSP
Aphids	Malathion (50% EC) <b>or</b> Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer <b>or</b> Use a Water wand	2 TSP 1 TBSP As needed
Spider mites	Use a Water wand <b>or</b> Avid (0.15EC) <b>or</b> Floramite	Weekly as preventative 1/2 TSP 1/8 to 1/4 TSP
Caterpillars	Thuricide	4 TSP
Thrips	Orthene (9.4% EC) <b>or</b> Bayer Advanced Garden Rose and Flower Insect Killer <b>or</b>  Conserve SC	2 TBSP 1 TBSP (Mix either with 4 TSP brown sugar per gallon) 1/2 TSP (may be used with fungicide)

## SUGESTED METHOD FOR PLANTING FORTUNIANA GRAFTED ROSES

For one planting hole - approximately 24 inches wide by 14 inches deep

1 bag Fafard #3B (2.8 cubic feet)*	1 cup dolomitic lime	1/2 cup Epsom salts
3 gallons of mushroom compost (fresh - not bagged)	1 cup super phosphate	1 cup Milorganite
1 cup Osmocote	1 cup fish meal	

1. In a large container(s): Mix 1 cup dolomitic lime and one half cup Epsom salts with one bag of Fafard #3B. Add water until COMPLETELY WET
2. While the above mix is absorbing the water ... Dig your planting hole, using a round 32 gallon garbage can lid to mark the diameter of the hole. Dig the hole approximately 14 inches deep by 24 inches wide. Once dug, level out the bottom of the hole.
3. Fill the bottom third of the hole with the wet Fafard/lime/Epsom salts mixture.
4. Take your rose bush, still in the pot, and set it in the center of the hole - Check the planting level by laying a stake across the hole to see if the level of the soil in the pot is slightly above the level of the soil in the bed surrounding the hole. Adjust the level by adding or removing the Fafard/lime/Epsom salts mixture.
5. Once the planting level in the hole is correct, into the bottom of the hole add one gallon mushroom compost and 1/2 cup of the super phosphate and mix it into the Fafard with your hand and level out the area.
6. Sprinkle 1 cup of Milorganite evenly over the mix in bottom of hole. Do not mix in.
7. Remove rose plant from container and place root ball in center of hole.
8. With your fingers make an indentation in planting mix right next to root ball. Fill this indentation with 1/2 cup of super phosphate.
9. Sprinkle evenly around root ball 1/2 cup of Osmocote and 1/2 cup of Fish Meal.
10. Fill the hole with more wet Fafard/lime/Epsom salts mix until the planting hole is filled to about 2 to 3 inches from the top.
11. Add one gallon of the mushroom compost evenly around the root ball and gently mix with your hand into the planting mix.
12. Sprinkle evenly around root ball 1/2 cup of Osmocote and 1/2 cup of Fish Meal.
13. Fill the remainder of the hole with the wet Fafard mix.
14. Top dress with one gallon mushroom compost
15. Mulch the area (2-3 inches thick) and water well (even though the planting mix was wet). Do not stamp, step on, or push the soil in the hole. Leave as loose as possible.
16. For the first two weeks after planting you need to water daily -- thoroughly watering the root ball area and the width of the entire planting hole. Thereafter water 2 to 3 times a week giving the bush a total of 3-4 inches a week.

\***Fafard 3B** is a soilless mix composed of 50% Canadian sphagnum peat moss, 25% aged pine bark, perlite and vermiculite. (The "B" in "3B" is because of the large amount of pine bark contained in this mix). The mix also contains dolomitic limestone (to adjust pH to 5.5 - 6.5), gypsum, a water-soluble nutrient charge, blue-chip (a slow release source of nitrogen) and a wetting agent. Fafard can be purchased at Pro Source in Apopka (for about \$8.00 per bag - 2.8 cubic feet) and most independent garden centers can order Fafard 3B (usually at a much higher price). If you cannot obtain Fafard 3B then look for a potting mix that is comprised of a similar ratio of ingredients.