

"THE ABC'S OF ROSES"

An Overview of Growing Roses in Central Florida

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PARTIAL LIST OF RECOMMENDED ROSES FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA

HYBRID TEAS/GRANDIFLORAS

About Face	Marlon's Day
Babies Blush	Mr. Caleb
Beverly	Mr. Lincoln
Bride's Dream	Moonstone
Cherry Parfait	Perfume Delight
Elina	Pink Promise
Fragrant Plum	Pop Warner
Gold Medal	Queen Elizabeth
Grande Dame	St. Patrick
Hot Princess	Tahitian Sunset
Let Freedom Ring	The McCartney Rose
Louise Estes	Veteran's Honor

FLORIBUNDAS

Bridal Pink	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Easy Does It	Playgirl
Else Poulsen	Hot Cocoa
Fabulous	Sunflare
Iceberg	Sunsprite
Julia Child	Tuscan Sun
Lady of the Dawn	

MINIATURE & MINIFLORAS

Abby's Angel	Joy
Bee's Knees	Louisville Lady
Bold Ruler	My Sunshine
Breath of Spring	Pierrine
Buttercream	Shameless
Conundrum	Whirlaway
Green Ice	

OLD GARDEN ROSES

Anna Olivier	Marchesa Boccella
Bermuda's Kathleen	Mrs. B. R. Cant
Cecile Brunner	Old Blush
Duchesse de Brabant	St. David's
Eugene Marlitt (Maggie)	Safrano
Francis Dubreuil	Souvenir de la
Louis Philippe	Malmaison

SHRUB ROSES

Abraham Darby	English Garden
Alnwick Castle	Gartendirektor Otto Linne
Belinda's Dream	Jude the Obscure
Belle Story	L.D. Braithwaite
Carding Mill	Lyda Rose
Christopher Marlowe	Molineux
Crocus Rose	Prosperity
Darcy Bussell	Scepter'd Isle
Dortmund	The Dark Lady

EARTH KIND ROSES

Belinda's Dream	Madame Antoine Mari
Caldwell Pink	Marie Daly
Carefree Beauty	Mutablis
Cecile Brunner	New Dawn
Climbing Pinkie	Perle d' Or
Ducher	Reve d' Or
Duchesse de Brabant	Sea Foam
Else Poulsen	Souvenir de St. Anne's
Georgetown Tea	Spice
Knock Out	The Fairy
La Marne	

*For more information on Earth Kind Roses visit:
<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses>*

"Easy To Grow" Roses for Central Florida

Altissimo	Palmengarten Frankfurt
Belinda (not the same as Belinda's Dream)	Pink Pet
Dick Clark	Pink Traviata
Dortmund	Pope John Paul II
Francis Meiland	R. Laevigata (Cherokee Rose)
Frederic Mistral	Richards Rose
Gartendirektor Otto Linne	Shreveport
Home Run	Sunset Celebration
Louis Philippe	Tiffany
Love	Traviata
Monsieur Tillier	Tropicana

FERTILIZING YOUR ROSES: Roses require that you attend to them adequately. They are heavy feeders and perform their best with a consistent diet. Bi-monthly light feedings of fertilizers will keep your roses at their best. There are a number of different fertilizing approaches which are reliable and provide excellent results, even though they do not always use the same materials or the same frequency. No matter what you feed your roses, always water the entire surface of the soil surrounding the rose bushes BEFORE applying any type fertilizer. Then water again after applying, washing the fertilizer into the soil and/or mulch.

MY BASIC FEEDING PLAN -- To ensure your roses perform to their best, maintain your soil pH between 5.8 to 6.5). 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 over 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).

End of January - about 30 days before spring pruning. Apply 1/2 cup of **Epsom salts** per bush.

Mid February - about two weeks before spring pruning. apply 2 cups per bush of ONE of the following: Fish Meal, Fish Pellets, Purely Organic Rose Mix, or Mills Magic Rose Mix. Also apply 1/4 cup of Sul-Po-Mag per bush.

Mid March - (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). Follow the dilution rate on the product, as some brands call for one tablespoon per gallon, and other brands one teaspoon per gallon.

Late April and Late August - 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).

Every 60 days, (every other month) March thru October* - 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).

Every 30 days, March through January ** Apply 2 to 4 tablespoons of Sul-Po-Mag. (Smaller amounts for smaller bushes ... larger amounts for larger bushes). Water in Well.

SUGGESTED TIMING:

*For example, beginning on March 30th apply the Milorganite, gypsum and Epsom salts. Do this **every other month** on the 30th (approximately near that date) -- March Thru October.

** 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).

Try to space feedings with two weeks in between them.

Plan the above fertilizer applications by marking them on a calendar, and then check them off when they are completed.

Alternate Rose Fertilizing Method #1:

Use a granular fertilizer tailored to roses which includes minor elements (e.g. Sunniland Rose Growers Special (available at Luka's Nursery), Growers 16-5-10 Nursery & Rose Special). I do not recommend using a rose fertilizer that contains a systemic insecticide. Every two weeks broadcast evenly under the bush from the shank to the drip line 1/2 cup of fertilizer to large established bushes; 1/3 cup to smaller bushes; and 2 tablespoons to 1/4 cup to miniatures and minifloras. In addition with each of the above feedings apply 2 tablespoons of Sul-Po-Mag (SPM) as the important nutrient potassium leaches rapidly from our sandy soils.

Alternate Rose Fertilizing Method #2:

Use a time release product, such as Osmocote 15-9-12 with minors, 5-6 month release. Apply every four months. Broadcast evenly under the bush from the shank to the drip line. Use 1 cup per large bushes and 1/2 cup per smaller bushes. In addition, once each month apply 4 tablespoons of Sul-Po-Mag (SPM) as the important nutrient potassium leaches rapidly from our sandy soils.

Elaine's "Recipe" for Planting Fortuniana Grafted Roses (Planting Mix #1)

For one planting hole - approximately 24 inches wide by 12 - 14 inches deep

- ◆ 1 bag **Sungro Metro Mix 830*** (formerly Fafard #3B) (2.8 cubic feet)
- ◆ 1 cup **Osmocote 15-9-12** with minors (5 to 6 month release)
- ◆ 1 cup **Milorganite**
- ◆ 3 gallons **mushroom compost** (fresh, not bagged)
- ◆ 1 cup **Epsom Salts**
- ◆ 1 cup **fish meal**, OR **fish pellets**, OR **Purely Organic Rose Fertilizer**, OR **Mills Magic Rose Mix**

All above ingredients are to be thoroughly mixed together to form the "Planting Mix".

In addition you will need One-half cup **triple super-phosphate (0-45-0)**. **DO NOT mix in with above ingredients.** The triple super-phosphate is to be used only in the bottom of the hole.

Planting Directions: As you fill the planting hole, thoroughly wet the planting mix with a garden hose. Fill the hole with the mix until the hole is at the proper planting depth. Check the planting depth by placing the rose bush in the hole and laying a stake or a shovel handle across the hole to see if the level of the soil at the top of the pot is slightly above the level of the soil in the bed surrounding the hole. It is better to plant the bush too high than too low in the hole to allow for settling over time. Once the bush is raised to the proper level, and before filling the remainder of the hole, add the triple super-phosphate sprinkling it under and around the root ball. Then the remainder of the planting hole will be filled with the planting mix, wetting it as the hole is filled, so the level of the mix in the hole is slightly lower than the top of the root ball. **Do not stamp, step on, or push the planting mix in the hole. Leave as loose as possible to allow the roots to grow freely.** Once the bush is officially 'planted' thoroughly water the entire width of the planting hole with the hose to remove any air pockets and settle everything in place. Apply a thick layer of mulch – Pine Bark, Oak Leaves or Pine Straw are recommended. A newly planted bush should be watered daily for two weeks after planting. Thoroughly water the root ball area and the width of the entire planting hole. This will encourage the roots to grow in an outward direction and help the bush become established in its new home. After the first two weeks of daily watering, water 2 to 3 times a week giving the bush a total of 2-3 inches of water each week.

***Sungro Metro Mix 830** is comprised of Ground Bark, Peat Moss, Dolomitic Limestone, and a long lasting wetting agent. Sungro can be purchased at BWI in Apopka. Alternately, check with independent garden centers about ordering Sungro Metro Mix 830 for you. If you cannot obtain Sungro Metro Mix 830 then look for a potting mix that is comprised of a similar ingredients.

Planting Mix #2

Consists of (by volume):

- 1/3 good topsoil;
- 1/3 organic matter (dehydrated cow manure and peat moss);
- 1/3 sandy soil from the hole that is dug;
- 1 cup of Milorganite;
- ½ cup super-phosphate

The above ingredients are to be thoroughly mixed together (except the super-phosphate). Then follow the Planting Directions provided above in Planting Mix #1

Planting Mix #3

Thoroughly mix **Miracle-Gro® Garden Soil for Roses** in a 1:1 ratio with the existing soil. Then follow the Planting Directions provided above in Planting Mix #1.

It is suggested that you add 1/2 cup of super-phosphate in the bottom of the planting hole below and around the root ball.

All of the above planting mixes have been used by successful local rose growers and will produce good results.

Sources for Fortuniana Grafted Rose Bushes

Orlando Area:

Apenberry's 407-841-3088
Debary Nursery 386-668-4466
Lukas Nursery 407-365-6163
Palmer's Garden 407-896-5951

Mail Order:

(call or email for list of available roses)

Cool Roses for Southern Gardens, West Palm
561-310-8508

Large selection of all types of roses
email: Geoffcoolidge@comcast.net
Web page: www.coolroses.com

K&M Nursery, Buckatunna, MS
Large selection of all types of roses including
David Austin Roses
601-648-2908 email: info@kandmroses.com
Web page: www.kandmroses.com

For The Love Of Roses, Brighton, TN
Large selection of Miniature / Miniflora Roses
(330) 360-8510
email: info@forloveofroses.com
Web page: https://forloveofroses.com

... A Few Sources for Rose Supplies

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

Winfield Solutions Apopka, 407-886-4744

A complete line of fertilizers (Sul-Po-Mag, Osmocote, gypsum, magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) etc., and fungicides.

BWI, Apopka, (800) 876-9113 - Sungro Metro Mix #830, and a complete line of fertilizers and fungicides.

Montery Mushroom Farm, Apopka, 407-905-4000
Pick up Fresh mushroom compost by the truckload.

Volusia Shed, DeLand (386) 775-8676
Pick up Fresh mushroom compost by the yard.

Purely Organic Fertilizer, (H.L. Shealy Co.)

A complete line of organic supplements, fungicides and insecticides. CFRS Group order to be delivered to June 7th meeting. 803-892-2651, purelyorganicfertilizer.com

Mills Magic Rose Mix Fertilizer 800-845-2325
millsmix.com - A complete line of gardening products, including Mills Magic Rose Mix Fertilizer.

Kelway HB-2 pH meter: Can be purchased from many Internet sources including Amazon. Shop for best prices!

Recommended Pruning Shears: ARS HP-130DX 7-Inch Hand Pruners (might say for "small hands" but they are also my husband's favorite). Various internet sources including Amazon.

Raising soil 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 (5.8 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). When applying lime, spread evenly around the bush from the shank to the drip line and water in well.

Lowering soil pH: 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 8 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 8 tablespoons. If it is 6.8 to 7.0, apply 4 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 (5.8 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.