PLANTING A ROSE

By R. Ralph Clark, Horticulture Specialist

Requirements:

1. One or more rose bushes.
2. A shovel.
3. Pruning shears (hand shears preferred).
4. Water (hose or bucket can be used).

Procedure:

1. Time
   a. In milder climates roses may be planted any time after they are dormant in the fall or in the early spring.
   b. Where the climate is severe, planting should wait until spring and danger from cold is past.

2. Place
   a. Allow two to three feet between bush roses and six to eight feet between climbers.
   b. Plant where they get good air drainage and are exposed to the sun for at least half a day - morning sun preferred.
   c. Be sure that the roots will not stand in water for more than a very few hours at any time.
   d. Any soil that will raise good vegetables or flowers will raise roses.

3. Planting
   a. Dig a hole 15 to 18 inches wide and a foot deep. If soil is not quite good enough, it is well to work in some old stable manure or peat in the next 6 to 12 inches of soil. Then make a cone of soil over which to spread the roots, allowing the bud union to come just above the ground level for western Oregon and one inch below where winters are more severe.
b. Prepare plant by removing any injured or extra long roots with a sharp pair of shears. Remove small twiggy growth and cut strong canes to about 12 inches. Keep roots moist by covering with wet moss or packing material or immerse them in a pail of water or thin mud.

c. Plant by spreading roots over the cone of soil and fill in best soil around and among the roots. Gently firm the soil but be careful to not injure or break the roots. Fill hole with water to wash soil close around roots. When the water has soaked away, finish filling the hole with soil and mound up six to eight inches around the plant. This gives winter protection to fall plantings and prevents drying out the spring planted roses. No fertilizers are needed until the plant is well started.

Questions:

1. What tools are best to use in planting rose bushes?
2. When should roses be planted?
3. Of what value is the cone of soil which you are making in the hole in which you are going to plant a rose bush?
4. Why water a newly planted bush?

Suggestions for Demonstrations:

1. Club members can use a small wash tub or dish pan to show how to plant a rose. By tilting the container slightly so the audience can see the work, the club member can easily demonstrate the steps in planting.

2. A chart or blackboard can also be used to illustrate or point out the steps in planting a rose. A simple picture will show the purpose of the mound in the bottom of the hole.

3. Preparing the rose bush for planting – pruning the plant – can make a separate demonstration or can be included in the planting demonstration.

Reference: