

ROSE GROWING

Few flowers are as beautiful or more admired than the rose, and although a rose bush will continue to flower when neglected, a little care and attention on the grower's part will be more than amply rewarded by the improved quality and quantity of the blooms that are produced and the increased size and vigor of the bush. These notes though of necessity brief are designed to assist the novice grower.

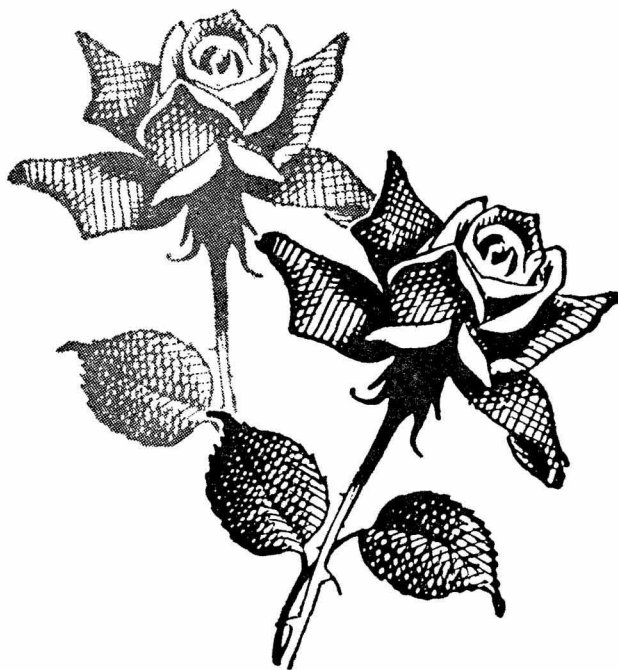
Site and Selection of Varieties. All roses like plenty of sunshine, but most varieties will do well even with a few hours sun each day. Although roses prefer a medium to heavy soil, it is possible to grow them in practically any type of soil provided that suitable varieties are selected. Any reputable rose nurseryman will be only too pleased to advise you what varieties are most suitable for your garden.

Fairy or small miniature roses can be planted in pots or window boxes, whilst the larger miniatures are ideal for long narrow borders. Where medium borders or massed beds of colour are desired, Floribundas can be used with considerable effect. For beauty of individual bloom, long stems, larger plants, the Hybrid Teas are best.

Most climbing roses do not flower as freely or continuously as the bush types and must be tied to some form of support such as a fence or pergola. Ramblers are useful for trailing over banks and pergolas, etc. whilst Shrub roses will blend in well in the shrubbery.

Standard roses which are budded on long stems of various heights can be used as single specimens or in groups and are particularly useful for growing behind low fences and amongst beds of annuals.

A pretty garden of Mrs. Mary Simms at La Perouse. Mrs. Simms (right) is seen here with her daughter, Mrs. Betty Stewart



Prepare the Soil at least a month before planting, if this is possible, by thoroughly working the whole bed or border to a depth of 12 inches, but be very careful, where you have a heavy clay subsoil, that you do not leave the underneath of the bed in the form of a basin that will not let the water get away after heavy rains or waterings. If the subsoil is too near the surface it is better to build the beds up rather than put the plants in too deeply. A light dressing of Agricultural Lime or Dolomite (say 1 lb. per square yard) could be spread over the surface at this stage, as this helps to open up the soil. Roses prefer a medium to heavy well-drained soil, but great success has been obtained by growing them in soil that is practically pure sand, if the correct feeding methods are adopted. It is essential that the plants should be given a well-drained site.

Planting Time on the coastal areas of N.S.W. is from May to the end of August, but in cold mountain districts (over 3,000 feet altitude) August is considered a good time.

Planting should be done as soon as possible after the plants are obtained, but if this is not possible they should be "heeled in" a sheltered or shady position. "Heeling in" means digging a shallow trench, then laying the rose roots in it, covering them with fine soil, firming with light pressure and watering. The soil should be kept moist until the bushes are planted in their permanent positions. Never allow the roots of unplanted roses to become dry.

Before planting, mark out where each plant is to go, allowing adequate spacing for the particular type of bush to be planted. Dig a hole about 12 in. wide and 8 in. to 9 in. deep, and then see if the hole is big enough to contain the roots of the chosen plant without cramping