

**ROSES, ROSES, ROSES**  
**Presented by David Vande Castele**  
**Summarized by Kim Watson, Kathy Dennis, and Jan Behler**



David Vande Castele is a master gardener, public speaker on behalf of the Colorado State County Extension Office, and featured writer for the Denver Post. He has given several presentations to CPVGC.

**TRIVIA**

The oldest fossil rose in Colorado is 35 million years old.

Roses have been cultivated since 5000 BC in China and traded as tender in the 15th century.

Napoleon's wife Josephine can be credited with the popularization of roses in Europe. She was so smitten with roses that she had her gardeners bring new varieties from China, because the Chinese engaged in the earliest hybridization of roses.

The rose is a symbol of Love and Silence!

Old garden roses only bloomed once a year

**TIPS ON ROSES**

– based on David Vande Castele's presentation, and our own master gardener Jan Behler's knowledge

- Hybrid: Tea and Hybrid perpetual – bloom all season
- Floribunda: Hybrid and Polyantha – looks like a bouquet
- Grandiflora: Hybrid tea and Floribunda – Huge
- Shrub Canadian & English Rose – good for Colorado
- Choose a rose from either grafted bare roots (a hybrid rose grafted onto a wild rose root) or a potted rose with its own root (a hybrid with its own root)
- Grafted bare root plants last 12-15 years and come in unlimited varieties
- Potted, own root roses last 20-25 years but varieties are limited
- Disinfect your pruning shears before going on to the next plant. This can easily be accomplished by using a squirt bottle of rubbing alcohol or a can of Lysol
- Roses have their problems, but are generally very hardy and difficult to kill
- Roses love pruning – pruning gets plants to bloom more than fertilization
- Roses need full sun for 5 – 6 hours daily, minimum, good air circulation (probably not good against the house)
- Roses need good soil drainage
- Avoid root competition
- Trim broken/damaged roots. David trims every one of the bare roots, to signal to plant to send out new roots
- Use Spagnum peat and ½ soil

- Place the bud union 2 inches below soil
- Winter protection: 1 foot of mulch covering rose plants. Clean up leaves and debris from the ground first which will help prevent the spread of some diseases. When temperatures at night drop to 20 degrees for several days mound soil, mulch, or sawdust over the rose crown. Mulching will help keep the soil at uniform temperature, reducing the possibility of early growth that might be injured by frost
- Need water during winter once a month if no snow
- No pruning until May 1st. Do not prune in fall.
- To encourage more blooms, cut at 30-45 degree angle, ¼ inch above the first FIVE leaflet leaf, and above the flower bud. Do all over plant
- Seal canes after cutting – you can use Elmer’s Glue
- Plant new bare root roses March-April
- Plant potted roses in mid-May, after last frost - first bloom mid-June
- Water weekly during through growing season, but only the roots - roses don’t like wet leaves
- Pull back mulch from covered roses, approx May 15
- Fertilize approx May 15, second fertilization mid-July (at second bloom). Do not fertilize late in the season. An early freeze can damage growth and that fresh new growth is likely to be damaged or killed by the coming winter. The other reason to wait until spring to prune is that in early spring you will have no leaves, buds or flowers in your way
- The best protection against winter kill is to maintain healthy plants throughout the growing season and to make sure they don’t suffer from lack of water during dry winters
- Fertilizer formula (Rose Food) 5-10-5 or 6-10-4
- If using a Time Release fertilization, use only once a year
- Change brands of fertilizer every year
- Helpful websites:  
[www.ext.colostate.edu](http://www.ext.colostate.edu)  
[www.ARS.org](http://www.ARS.org)  
[www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)
- Colorado Master Gardener Hotlines:  
Denver 720-913-5270  
Arapahoe 303-730-1920  
Jefferson 303-271-6620  
Douglas 720-733-6035

