

2009 HORTICULTURE CALENDAR FOR THE SACRAMENTO AREA

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MONTH	ACTIVITY
JANUARY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prune all roses, except those that bloom once a year through mid February. Those roses that only bloom once a year should be pruned after they bloom. However they can be pruned lightly ONLY to remove dead, injured, diseased, unproductive growth, and crossing canes. 2) Remove all rose foliage from pruned roses and clean up the rose beds of all debris specially rose leaves and prunings in order to reduce or eliminate fungal diseases like blackspot and rust. 3) Plant bare-root roses through February. Bareroot roses can also be planted in pots for later planting in the ground. 4) If fungal diseases such as blackspot, rust, powdery mildew and insects such as aphids and scales were noted while pruning, consider spraying with a rose fungicide to control diseases or an insecticide to control overwintering insects.
FEBRUARY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Finish all rose pruning by mid February as roses will begin to put out new growth. 2) If a garden soil test has never been done, consider having it tested by a soil analysis laboratory for nutritional imbalances, soil pH, and soil structure and composition. 3) Apply organic soil amendments such as alfalfa meal, Dr. Earth Rose Soil Amendments, etc around the dripline of each of the roses. Some rosarians apply two inches of mushroom compost another two inches of mulch for a total of four inches throughout whole garden bed to feed the soil, prevent weeds and preserve water moisture in the soil. 4) Apply a pre-emergent herbicide on top of the mulch in order to prevent weeds. 5) OPTIONAL: Make a list and a map of all roses in the garden in order to record any problems you might notice during the growing season.
MARCH	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Check watering system to make sure that all roses get adequate water. Consider installing an automatic irrigation system. 2) Plan fertilizer applications from late February through September; Add specialty soil amendments/fertilizers as if foliage shows the need. 3) Monitor for aphids on new growth, apply systemic, insecticidal soap/other non-toxic pesticides, or blast them off with water. 4) If you have trees near your roses, monitor for fruit-tree leaf rolling caterpillars descending from the fruit and shade trees into the rose garden by means of silken strands. Do this from late March through late April. Spray an insecticide such as <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> to the upper part of the roses where the caterpillars first land. 5) Monitor for fungal diseases and apply rose fungicides only when ideal weather conditions are present for the development of fungal diseases. If cool moist conditions persist, monitor for diseases such as powdery mildew, remove any foliage with rust (yellow or orangish pustules on the underside of the lower leaves) or with blackspot fungus (black spots on the upper surface of the leaves) and begin a fungal spray program.
APRIL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Enjoy the first bloom cycle on the roses! Visit local nurseries for varieties you might have missed. 2) Disbud roses when rose buds are still small in order to get larger blooms. In rose sprays/clusters remove the central bud that blooms first; in one bloom-per-stem specimens remove the side buds. 3) Visit the Sacramento Rose Show on the last full weekend in April; Look for other rose shows in the Sacramento and Bay areas. 4) Monitor for powdery mildew fungus on susceptible varieties. The ideal weather for this fungus is warm days and cool nights. Apply fungicides to all the roses at the first sign of infection on susceptible varieties; continue monitoring for other fungal diseases. 3) April and May are the buggiest months in the Sacramento area. Monitor for raspberry stem sawflies from late April through late May. Look for collapsed succulent growth. If damage is present, prune off the damaged canes 4) Monitor for rose curculio on developing rose buds in April and May. The red colored snout beetles puncture flower buds of roses. If present, pick them off and/or crush them or apply a contact insecticide like Sevin according to label recommendations. 5) Monitor for Hoplia beetles on open blooms of light color roses from April through May. Hoplia beetles feed on the rose petals and leave a lacy appearance on those petals. If present, pick them off and/or crush them or apply a contact insecticide like Sevin according to label recommendations.
MAY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cut back spent blooms and remove any fallen petals and foliage from the ground around the roses. In newly planted roses remove only the blooms. In well established plants, go down to pencil-diameter stems, or thicker, and cut above 5-leaflet leaves. This needs to be repeated after every bloom cycle which is about every 6-8 weeks. 2) Monitor for the presence of spider mites by checking for discolored leaves and webbing on the undersides. Discourage spider mites by spraying the undersides of leaves with a water wand. For severe infestations, apply pesticides containing miticides or spray the roses with insecticidal soap but make sure that the spray is directed to the undersides of the leaves. DO NOT APPLY HORTICULTURAL OILS! 3) OPTIONAL: Write down in a calendar when any pests made their first appearance and what action was taken. Also evaluate the spring bloom performance of your rose bushes!
JUNE - SEPTEMBER	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Continue monitoring for spider mites. 2) Check watering system to make sure that all roses get adequate water. Adjust water flow in the emitters for summer watering schedule. 3) Continue cutting back spent blooms and remove any fallen petals and foliage from the ground around the roses. 4) For a big garden display, cut back spent bloom and fertilize about 6-8 weeks before a desired event such as a rose show, garden party, garden wedding, etc.
AUGUST	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Re-apply mulch in the rose beds as needed; Add specialty soil amendments as needed by the rose foliage. 2) Apply a pre-emergent herbicide in order to control weeds summer sprouting weeds. 3) In preparation for fall rose shows, cut back spent bloom in all the roses; For late September-early October shows, cut your spent bloom by mid August; for mid October shows, cut back by first week in September. 4) Apply water soluble fertilizers such as MiracleGro to supplement needed nutrients and for bigger fall blooms.
SEPTEMBER	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monitor for aphid infestations in new rose growth. Control aphids and other pests ONLY if control is needed. 2) With lower temperatures powdery mildew might be a problem on susceptible varieties. Control ONLY as needed with rose fungicides. 3) Check local nurseries in fall rose inventory clearances and for great deal on missed varieties. 4) Send for rose catalogs and order new roses!
OCTOBER	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decrease application of fertilizers especially any fertilizers high in Nitrogen. 2) Continue monitoring for fungal diseases, spider mites, and insect pests. Control the pest only if it is a problem. 3) Check watering system to make sure that all roses get adequate water. Adjust water flow in the emitters for fall watering schedule. 4) Continue cutting back spent blooms and remove any fallen petals and foliage from the ground around the roses. 5) Anchor long canes in climbing and shrub type roses to prevent wind injury.
NOVEMBER - DECEMBER	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Check watering system to make sure that all roses get adequate water. Decrease or stop watering if fall rains arrive early. 2) Let hips form to encourage dormancy and for fall/winter interest. 3) Remove any diseased blooms or fallen petals and foliage from the ground around the roses. 4) Acquire the proper tools for rose pruning and winter chores: One pair of pruning shears, one pair of goat skin gloves, one pair of knee pads, one pair of 24" loppers, one folding pruning saw, and wear warm clothes and waterproof boots. 2) Begin pruning roses in mid to late December.