

mn 2000 4G 6/7/65 (3)
Department of Information
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St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Yard 'n' Garden



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Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.

For use week of
June 7, 1965

JUN 8 1965

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SUMMER ROSE CARE

Success in the rose garden depends on good management practices such as watering, fertilization, pruning and pest control. Since roses are heavy feeders and need large quantities of water, regular feeding and watering are important.

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Use the soaker hose for watering. On lighter soils, it may be necessary to water thoroughly every other day, while on heavier soils it may not be necessary to water as often. Occasionally syringe the foliage to remove dust and other filth. It's better to water roses during early morning rather than at night if you're sprinkling.

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After giving roses a good fertilization in the spring, fertilize them after each sequence of bloom. Use 4 or 5 tablespoons of a complete fertilizer per plant. Such fertilizers as 10-10-10 or other specific compounded rose fertilizers may be used.

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A mulch will help to control weeds and conserve moisture. Grass clippings, well rotted barnyard manure, commercial peat, cocoa hulls or buckwheat hulls are all good mulch materials. They should be applied at a depth of several inches for good weed control.

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Pest control is necessary to control such insects as rose chafer, rose leafhopper, aphids and spider mites. It's a good idea to check the foliage on a daily basis to see if there's any infestation of insects. The two diseases most troublesome in roses will be the rose mildew and black spot. Good sanitation practices can help considerably to avoid these two disease problems. A regular spray program is necessary when the disease persists.

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When cutting roses, always take as little stem and as few leaves as possible. Roses need leaves to manufacture food for the plant. Never cut roses from plants that are weak during the first season of bloom. Where reshaping of the bush seems to be in order, cut back to the first five leaflets.

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