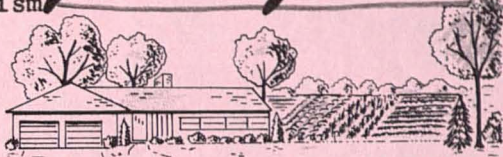


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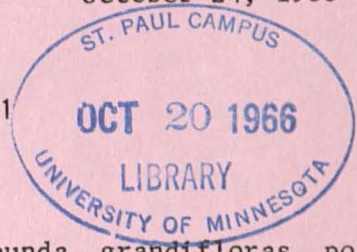
Yard 'n' Garden



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WINTERING ROSES

Wintering roses is necessary for hybrid tea, floribunda, grandifloras, polyanthas and rambler varieties of roses. Winter protection is a method of guarding against minimum temperatures below 10⁰ F; it is simply insulating against excessive cold temperatures.

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Timing is important for application of the mulch. Usually there can be a light crust of frost before applying it. There are two common methods for winter protection. The first is tipping the rose bush into a trench. Shortly after the middle of October when the soil is moist and workable, dig a trench about 6 to 8 inches deep extending to the base of the rose bush. Tie the canes together into a bundle and tip the bush into the trench. Use the soil you dig out to cover the rose bush. Early in November, add a 2- to 4-inch layer of leaves to the surface to give further protection. As the season progresses more leaves may be added to build up a leaf layer about 18 to 24 inches deep. This will give adequate protection for the rose bush.

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The second system is that of bending the rose bush over and laying it down on the ground horizontally. To do this it is necessary to tie the canes together and take a shovelful of soil from one side of the rose bush. Then lay the entire bush down on the ground. The rose bed may be enclosed with chicken wire or garden fencing to at least 2 feet in depth. Place the fencing about 2 feet from the outermost rose bush.

Apply the final heavy cover of leaves before any heavy freeze when there is danger of severe damage to unhardened tissues of the rose bush. The layer of leaves should be approximately 3 feet deep. In placing the leaves over the bushes, be sure there are no air pockets left in the covering. Also be sure to curve the upper surface of the mulch so it does not collect moisture.

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To prevent the surface from blowing away and to alleviate any fire hazard, you may want to use a lawn sprinkler to moisten the upper layer.

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Take climbing roses off the trellis, lay them down and then use either the trenching or the mulch system for winter protection.

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