

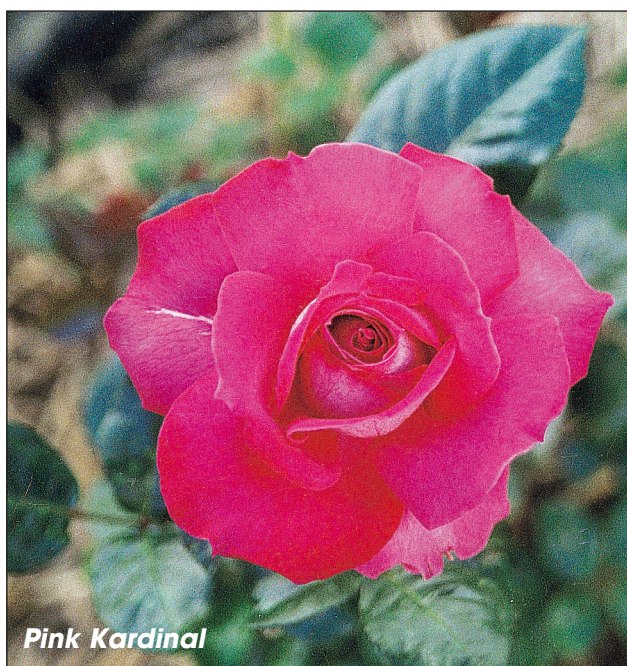


## ROSES IN THE TROPICS

*Roses grow well in many climates, however to grow them successfully in the hot, humid tropics, you will need to follow a few simple rules. Here are some tips to keep your roses blooming in the tropics.*

### PLANT POSITION

Roses require an open sunny position sheltered from strong winds. A well drained soil position is essential as roses do not grow well in water-logged soils. To test how well the soil drains in your garden, dig a hole approximately 30cm deep and fill it with water. If the water has not drained in 12-24 hours, the ground will not drain sufficiently for the cultivation of roses and it may be necessary to grow your roses in raised gardens.

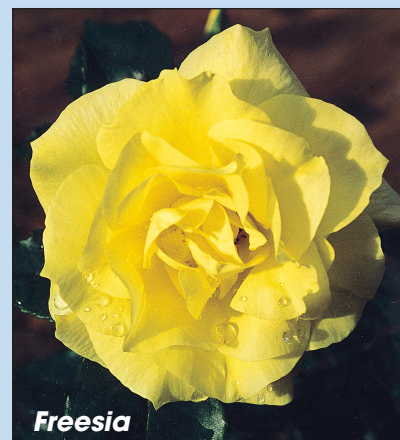


### ROSE VARIETIES FOR THE TROPICS

**Reds** - 'Kardinal' is the best red for its keeping qualities - up to six days in the vase. 'Roundelay' - beautiful perfume. 'Aruba', 'Samantha', 'Mr. Lincoln' (which grows well but does not have the best keeping qualities), 'Chrysler Imperial'.

**Whites** - 'Honour', 'Virgo'.

**Yellows** - 'Kabuki', 'Freesia', 'Gold Bunny'.



**Pinks** - 'Queen Elizabeth', 'Peter Frankenfeld' (a very good performer even in the tropics), 'Royal Highness' (very pale pink).

**Multicoloured** - 'Double Delight'.

**Cream** - 'Vanilla'.

**Lavender** - 'Blue Moon'.



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## SOIL PREPARATION - GARDENS

Dig a hole large enough to allow good root growth. Generally a hole approximately 30cm deep and wide is sufficient. Either fill the hole directly with **Searles Rose & Citrus Planting Compost** or mix with the existing soil at 1 part mix to 1 part soil, then plant your rose bush as per instructions on the rose label.

## SOIL PREPARATION - RAISED GARDENS

Loosen and turn soil in the area where the garden is to be formed. Try to work the soil down to approximately 10cm below the soil surface. Apply **Searles Rose & Citrus Planting Compost** on top of the soil to a depth of 10-15cm. The mix can either be left on top of the existing soil or it can be mixed into the soil. Water the ground to soak and settle the mix before planting the rose bush as per instructions on the rose label.



## WATERING

Watering over the foliage promotes fungal diseases in roses and other plants. It is best to water the soil. However, watering the foliage is promoted when fertilising with **Searles Fish & Kelp Plus**® as this will help prevent the foliage from fungal diseases.

## BEATING BLACK SPOT

Warm, humid summer conditions provide the ideal conditions for Blackspot. Blackspot shows up on older leaves as dark, circular marks and eventually the foliage turns yellow and falls to the ground.

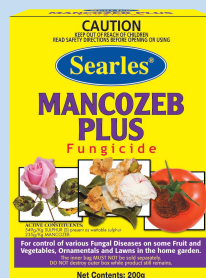
When planting rose bushes it is essential to space them far enough apart to allow for good air circulation all round. They should be planted in full sun away from other plants that will smother their stems and compete for moisture and nutrients.

Hygiene is important: clean secateurs with a solution of bleach and water between each bush; never compost prunings; and remove any fallen foliage.

To help prevent Blackspot appearing, apply **Searles Fish & Kelp Plus**® over the foliage, this is not only a preventative measure, but fertilises your roses too. This product is endorsed by the Queensland Rose Society.

If blackspot does appear, spray roses with **Searles Rose Gun**. It will not only control Blackspot but will also kill various insects like aphids, thrips, two-spotted mite, powdery mildew and rust.

An effective fungicide which is suitable for treating blackspot is **Searles Mancozeb Plus**.





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## MULCHING

Rose plants also benefit greatly from mulching and a great mulch to use is **Searles Mulch Plus®**. **Searles Mulch Plus®** contains added **Searles 5 IN 1 Plus® Organic fertiliser** and slow release fertilisers. Both help protect the soil and root system from extreme heat while at the same time feeding for about 3 months.



## PRUNING

Pruning is a continuous practice with roses in a hot climate, where there is almost no dormant period. It takes place regularly when flowers are cut for the vase.

Cut the stem back to the second leaf bud coming from the main trunk and also keep an eye open for any spindly or straggly pieces, or dead branches, which need to be removed. Do not cut off the red shoots that sprout from the bottom, because this is the source of the growing bush and its next lot of flowers.

## FERTILISING

Fertilising roses will help them to build up resistance against disease and fungal problems commonly associated with the tropical climate.

Use a fertiliser, which is high in potassium, and also contains appropriate quantities of phosphorous. Potassium develops flower size and quality and assists in the resistance to diseases. Phosphorous develops stronger stems and canes and also helps to assist in the resistance to diseases.

For fertilising roses, use either **Searles® Robust Plus - Rose & Flower** or **Searles Flourish® Soluble Plant Food** (both endorsed by The Qld Rose Society).

**Searles® Robust Plus - Rose & Flower** is a controlled release fertiliser and will feed roses for up to 6 months. **Searles Flourish®** is a soluble fertiliser, which is ideal for watering both over the rose bush and drenching the soil. When foliar fertilising, avoid doing so in direct sunlight or on days over 30°C. It is best to apply early mornings or late afternoons. Apply **Searles Flourish®** every 2-3 weeks through the main growth periods.



**Searles Fish & Kelp Plus®** is another excellent product to use on roses. Not only will it fertilise your roses but it will also help prevent fungal diseases like blackspot and powdery mildew.

Every 6-12 months improve the soil with **Searles 5 IN 1 Plus® Organic Plant Food**.

**Searles 5 IN 1 Plus® Organic Plant Food** and **Searles Fish & Kelp Plus®** are also endorsed by the Queensland Rose Society.

