

The Denver Rose Society's Checklist for a Great Rose Year

by Dave Ingram, Consulting Rosarian

A printable checklist for notebooks or garden shed walls.

January - Cold temperatures! Roses should be hilled at base and mulched by now. Use Xmas tree branches and burlap to protect from wind. Finish stripping old leaves that might harbor disease spores, and clean up beds. Water only when necessary, on warm days. List tasks and weather highlights below.

Notes: _____

February - Keep notes on deep watering needs. Keep beds clean. Try to leave the roses alone - they're doing fine.

Notes: _____

March - Serious sub-zero nights should lessen. Plant bare-root roses. Move established roses with less shock. Deep water when necessary - but don't overwater. Keep winter protection on. Roses should stay as dormant as possible, despite temperature swings.

Notes: _____

April - Still brings freezing nights. Wind and freeze/thaw are still threats. New growth will freeze. Plan to keep winter protection on until the end of the month. Keep beds clean. Plant bare-root, and move other roses until mid-month.

Notes: _____

May - Don't finish uncovering until danger of frost is past - then prune roses and seal cane ends. Start fertilizer program. Watering needs change greatly now. Watch for aphids and other insect pests. Plant new potted roses. Pull mulch back to warm soil.

Notes: _____

June - First bloom is prime time for insects. Use I.P.M. (Integrated Pest Management) Watch for early fungal diseases. Follow fertilizing schedules. Water freely as needed. Enjoy the flowers!! Finish new planting well before heat arrives. Replace mulch around plant bases and freshen to 3" or more, once it gets hot.

Notes: _____

July - Hot! Water more often and continue feeding. Use care when watering new plants. Make sure protective mulch stays in place. Spraying chemicals above 85 degrees may damage foliage. Deadhead properly to encourage new growth.

Notes: _____

August - Still hot - water freely. Last normal fertilizing at mid-month. Continue to use I.P.M., since mildew and blackspot usually invade this month.

Notes: _____

September - Ease back on watering as heat breaks to begin hardening off plants. Remove basal breaks. Big month for disease, particularly on new growth.

Notes: _____

October - Deep water before hard freezes to lessen root damage. Remove basal breaks. Deadhead beneath flower heads - if at all - to help roses slow down. Disease watch continues. Keep beds clean. Great time to start a new rose bed!

Notes: _____

November - Dig to check for watering needs. Plan winter protection for: 1. Cold, 2. Wind, 3. Freeze/thaw. Once roses are dormant, apply winter protection. Keep beds clean. **Send in your DRS membership renewal!**

Notes: _____

December - Remove old hanging leaves that might harbor disease spores. Water only when necessary on warmest days. Frozen ground and snow cover can be a good thing, if you're prepared. Write letters to Santa.

Notes: _____

Want to know more? A membership in the Denver Rose Society is a great way to increase your knowledge and make new friends! Come join us for a fun year of meetings, events and shows!