

# Magic Garden Roses



**Renowns Samaritin**

Hello again to everybody and welcome to our 3rd newsletter on growing roses. We have had so many people contacting us about our growing tips and I would love to thank all of those people e-mailing us back with their great results.



**Evening watering**

easy task actually but most people will go to far to much trouble.

We also had some requests from people on how to prepare the ground for roses. It is a very

Let's talk about what not to do first. If you want raised beds or have really solid clay, then look at getting in new soil BUT in 9 times out of 10, the soil that is already in your garden will be 10 times better than what money can buy in.

I am not impressed with a lot of soils that are available and believe me I have seen some really bad soils delivered to houses that guarantee to be the best around. Most soils delivered can have to much sand and grit. Some cases that I have seen, there is less than 20% soil and the rest is made up of mulched bark and sand. If you grab a handful and squeeze it, it should stick together as one piece and some that I have seen will full into 2-4 pieces or not even stick together at all. This means that you will be watering your garden twice to three times as much as a person that has simply planted roses into their gardens with the original soil that was there.

I delivered roses to a lady just yesterday, as I was unloading, she commented on how the roses in the front garden always loose their leaves and have smaller flowers. I noticed the front gardens had all been planted out in a very sandy loam soil. Apparently it was a special blend mix especially made up for her roses a couple of years back. I saw a big horrible weed that had popped up and I showed her how easy that weed was able to be pulled out. Even a 2 year old child could have done it. Then we proceeded to find a similar sized weed of the

# Magic Garden Roses



same variety that had been growing in her original soil around the back of the house. As I started to pull on it, well lets just say it became a real task that ended up snapping off and out came the shovel to dig the last bit out. Basically, you now have to relate that scenario back to the rose plants because it is proof that roots set into normal soil much better and penetrate deeper too as it holds the moisture much better than a sandy mix. Normal soils need much less watering and roots dig deeper in it. A bigger root system develops and the rose will be stronger. Again, if your rose is stronger, then it will be stronger against black spot and mildew. You can then appreciate the fact that all this leads to a stronger looking plant and further more - more roses.



I have had people send me samples of their soil where they were 100% sure that they had really bad clay and were advised that roses could not be grown in it and they needed a 3 in 1 mix delivered. Now when I receive those samples of their original soil, in most cases it is fantastic soil! When people send it, it is usually in the middle of Summer or Autumn when all soils set as hard as concrete and you cant even get a shovel in it. That's only because it is dried out and needs some moisture before you start turning it over.



Now of coarse some people are stuck with the fact that they do really have bad clay conditions and if you really have no option then use plan B. Instead of getting a 3 in 1 mix, see if your garden centre can offer you straight mountain soil with no added extras. Then you can be in control of any fertiliser that needs to be introduced before or after planting. Just remember, don't be talked into getting soils delivered because somebody told you your soil is bad, or you thought its bad. Get it tested. Even send some to me and I will tell you. (Half full margarine container will do.)

# Magic Garden Roses

If you are definitely in need of soil for a bad drainage area or a raised bed, and you are unsure of the quality of the mix that is available. Just ask for a sample, send it to me, and I will call you back on my thoughts. Keep in mind that I have seen some shocking mixes, that's not reflecting a bad light on all mixes, as most will give you good quality soils. It is a pity that a few companies give the good ones a bad name. Its certainly not the same everywhere you go.



**Colorama**

For those of you that have had trees removed to make way for new plants it is our advise to get some Dolomite and dig that through about a month before planting. Most larger plants or trees strip the calcium from the soil and their is little or none left in it after they are removed. You may have planted roses in spots such as this and wondered why they have little or no growth at all. That is generally from the soil having nothing left in to give to the new plants. Use about 20 kg over 5 square metres if big trees were removed and about half that for

smaller trees or and old garden bed. Again, the best fertiliser is Terra Firma Organic Life. Spread a 35kg bag over 10 square metres and dig the whole lot through. Plant out about 1 month later and you will get great results.

We wish you all the best and please feel free to give us some feedback or if you have any questions, please contact us. We also would love to tell you all that our gardens are in absolute peak. (looks like a Spring flush out there) So if you were hoping for a good time to see them all out, now is a great time to visit us and our thorny little friends.

Happy gardening! Peter and Trish Boerlage



**Purple Tiger**



**Stainless Steel**