

Rose Calendar

Dawson's don't just sell roses, we've been helping WA gardeners get the best out of their roses for over 100 years. Here's our helpful month by month, calendar of expert rose growing tips.

SEPTEMBER:

- Give roses a feed with Sulphate of Potash at the start of the month to help improve the size and quality of flowers.
- Many roses such as mini's and floribundas are ideal for growing in pots. Pot them using quality, Dawson's Premium Potting Mix.
- Start feeding roses if you haven't started already. Feed roses with Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser and repeat at 4-5 week intervals until mid May. Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser, is a balanced complete fertiliser, containing all the essential nutrients roses need and comes in handy 5kg bags. Baileys Rose Plant Food Controlled Release Fertiliser (a slow release granular fertiliser) is recommended for feeding potted roses. This can be supplemented with a fortnightly liquid feed with "Seasol" or "PowerFeed" to keep them on the go.
- The cool moist nights of spring, can encourage the development of rose fungal leaf diseases like Black Spot, Powdery Mildew and Rust. To control use a preventative spray program with rose fungicide products like Sharp Shooter Rose Black Spot & Natural Pyrethrum Concentrate or Sharp Shooter "Triforine". These are "concentrate" products which need to be diluted with water at the recommended rate and sprayed on. Alternatively you can use a handy "ready to use" product like Sharp Shooter "Rose Black Spot and Insect Spray". Remember when spraying roses it's a good idea to try and mist above and below the leaves and don't spray in temperatures above 30°C. Eco Rose is a newer organic spray for Black spot and Powdery Mildew control. For best results mix Eco-Rose with Eco-Oil at recommended rates.
- Give roses a light dressing of cow or sheep manure. Sprinkle around bushes, but not close to the stem, roses love it! (not recommended for roses in pots).
- September is a good time to control White Rose Scale, as it is a period when juvenile (crawler) scale appear to spread infestations. Spray affected canes thoroughly with Eco-Oil or White Oil. Take care not to spray during the day if temperatures exceed 30°C.
- Aphids can be a problem attacking soft new growth. To control spray with Eco-Oil, Natrasoap, Confidor, Mavrik, Sharp shooter "Rose Black Spot & Natural Pyrethrum Concentrate" or ready to use "Sharp Shooter "Rose Black Spot and Insect Spray".

OCTOBER:

- Apply a quality coarse mulch, like Water wise Pine Bark Mulch, this will help check weed growth and help retain soil moisture over Summer.
- The period October – November is an excellent time to introduce Predatory Mites on to your roses. Predatory Mites feed on Spider Mites, offering gardeners a natural way to control Spider Mites in the garden. It's a good idea to get Predatory Mite populations established early in the season, so they can check Red Spider Mite populations as the weather warms up. Red Spider Mite populations build up quickly in the hot dry weather typical of Perth summers. Predatory Mites can be ordered from your nearest Dawson's store. For more information enquire in-store or see our Predatory Mite fact sheet at www.dawsonsgardenworld.com.au

NOVEMBER:

- It's a great time to select new roses at Dawson's.
- Remember to use Dawson's Soil Improver when planting roses to get them off to a great start.
- Apply a soil wetting agent, like Aqua Wett, Eco-Hydrate, Eco-Wet or Grosorb, around roses to help water penetrate.
- Trim back roses that only flower in spring, like the Dog Rose (Rose McCartney) and the white and yellow Banksia roses after flowering has finished.
- Climbing roses should be trained to restrict them from growing straight up. This is best done by tying new canes to a horizontal position or by arching them into a fan shape.
- Remove spent flowers from roses to encourage flowering.
- **Relax and take time to smell the roses!**

DECEMBER:

- Red Spider Mites are the most troublesome pest of Roses over the warmer months. Spray with Mavrik*, Natrasoap* or Eco-Oil*. Spray twice, two weeks apart, to bring mite populations under control. Predatory Mites can also be ordered from your nearest Dawson's store. Predatory Mites feed on Spider Mites, offering a natural way

to control Spider Mites in your garden. For more information enquire in-store or see our Predatory Mite fact sheet at www.dawsonsgardenworld.com.au

- Watering is possibly the most critical part of summer rose care. Established roses need a good deep soak twice a week during summer, ensuring that water is actually reaching the root zone.
- Freshly planted roses will need to be hand watered every day or so during their first summer in the garden. Again when hand watering give roses a decent soak, you want the water to penetrate deep into the root zone to encourage healthy and deeper root development. A quick sprinkle might make you feel better, but is generally counter productive, as it encourages root development very close to the soil surface, making the plant very vulnerable to drying out.
- Remember to use Dawson's Soil Improver when planting roses to get them off to a great start.
- Feed roses with Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser and repeat at 4-5 week intervals until mid May. Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser, is a balanced complete fertiliser, containing all the essential nutrients roses need and comes in handy 5kg bags. Apex slow release granular, fertiliser is recommended for feeding potted roses. This can be supplemented with a fortnightly liquid feed with "Seasol" or "PowerFeed" to keep them on the go.
- Apply a soil wetting agent like Aqua Wett, around your roses. Soil Wetters allow water to penetrate deeply and quickly into our water resistant soils.
- It's always a good time to mulch and summer is no exception. By simply adding a 10cm layer of coarse mulch around your roses, you can reduce soil moisture loss by up to 70%. Mulching shades the soil, keeping roots cooler, reduces weeds and stimulates soil and plant health. All in all, mulching would have to be one of the most beneficial of all gardening practices.
- Coarse grade mulches, like Water Wise Pine Bark Mulch, are the best. Coarse mulches absorb little water, allowing most water to penetrate into the soil and do a great job helping retain soil moisture.
- Remember when mulching to leave a 15cm mulch free zone around the base of the rose. Mulching right up to the base can cause collar rot, particularly in young roses.
- Beautiful Dawson's roses make an ideal Christmas gift for the gardener in your life. Select the perfect gift from our huge range of bush roses, climbers, miniatures and elegant standards. Our friendly staff can even wrap your roses, making Christmas shopping even easier.

- Remember when spraying roses it's a good idea to try and mist above and below the leaves and don't spray in temperatures above 30°C.

JANUARY:

- Remove spent flowers from roses to encourage flowering.
- Climbing roses should be trained to restrict them from growing straight up. This is best done by tying new canes to a horizontal position or by arching them into a fan shape.
- Keep an eye out for Red Spider Mites over the warmer months. Red Spider Mite is the most troublesome pest in the Summer rose garden. Mite population build up rapidly in hot, dry conditions and severe infestations can completely suck leaves dry and defoliate bushes. Early symptoms of mite activity, are slight yellowing or yellow speckling, often along the mid-vein of the upper leaf surface. On the underside of the leaf, mite activity is indicated by mealy, grayish patches, again often along the mid vein.
- Early detection and control spraying is a key part of managing spider mites. To control spray with Mavrik or Natrasoap or Eco-Oil making sure the spray reaches the undersides of the leaves. The occasional misting or blast of water from the hose beneath the foliage in hot weather, will also help deter mites.
- Remember don't spray in temperatures above 30°C.
- Thrip is another summer pest of roses. Thrip attacks developing rose buds sucking the moisture from the petals, resulting in deformed flowers and blemishes. Sprays such as Confidor and Sharp Shooter "Rose Black Spot & Natural Pyrethrum Concentrate" are useful for protecting developing blooms from Thrip damage.

FEBRUARY:

- Roses can look a bit sad and sorry for themselves, by the end of Summer. But don't worry, this "heat stroke", is only temporary. As the cooler days of autumn arrive, your roses will revive and flush back into wonderful new growth, promising a spectacular end to the rose season. Indeed many rose growers say the autumn roses are the best of the year.
- Towards the end of February, give roses a bit of a light trim to encourage spectacular autumn blooms in April and May. Following your autumn trim, feed roses with Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser, to help promote autumn growth and repeat, every four weeks until the end of May. Make sure you water in well.

- Seasol is a useful liquid tonic for roses and is particularly good at helping revive sun scorched roses. Apply at a rate of 30 mls per 9litres of water and pour over foliage and drench soil around plants. Apply fortnightly. (not in the heat of the day).
- Following your autumn trim, feed roses with Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser, to help promote autumn growth and repeat, every four weeks until the end of May. Make sure you water in well.
- Climbing roses should be trained to restrict them from growing straight up. This is best done by tying new canes to a horizontal position or by arching them into a fan shape.
- **Relax and look forward to the beautiful autumn roses to come.**

MARCH:

- March is still a hot month, so, continue to pay careful attention to watering. Freshly planted roses will need to be hand watered every day or so during their first autumn in the garden. Established roses will need a good deep soak twice a week. Remember when watering, give roses a decent soak, not just a quick sprinkle, as this will encourage healthy and deeper root development.
- March is wonderful time of renewal in the rose garden. Roses that look a bit heat stressed after summer, will respond to the milder weather developing this month, with a period of rapid new growth, leading to a spectacular autumn flowering in April and May.
- Re apply soil wetting agents like Aqua Wett and Grosorb if necessary.
- Seasol is a seaweed based liquid tonic and is particularly good at helping revive tired looking, sun scorched roses. Apply at a rate of 30 mls per 9 litres of water and pour over foliage* and drench soil around plants. Apply fortnightly. (*not in the heat of the day).
- If you haven't given your roses an autumn trim yet, early to mid March, is an ideal time. Give roses a light prune and follow up with a feed of Dawson's All Purpose Fertiliser. Then sit back and watch your magnificent autumn blooms develop.
- Apply some Sulphate of Potash around your roses, as soon as you notice the young flower buds emerge. About half a handful of Sulphate of Potash, sprinkled beneath each rose and watered in well, will improve flower size and quality.

APRIL:

- Remove spent flowers from roses to encourage repeat flowering.
- Continue feeding roses monthly until the end of May. Dawson's All Purpose fertiliser is a balanced all purpose fertiliser, containing all the essential nutrients roses need and comes in handy 5kg bags.
- Apex slow release fertiliser is recommended for feeding potted roses. This can be supplemented with a fortnightly liquid feed with "Seasol" or "PowerFeed" to keep them on the go.
- Autumn is a wonderful time for planting roses. Remember to use Dawson's Soil Improver to get them off to a great start! Enjoy browsing among Dawson's huge range of roses. It's a great time to compare varieties and find new favourites.
- The autumn rose flush is now in full swing, so take some time to smell the roses! It's also a great time to evaluate your rose collection and browse among the hundreds of gorgeous roses at Dawson's. We're sure you'll be tempted!
- New autumn growth can be attractive to aphids. To control aphids spray with Eco Oil, Natrasoap or Confidor. Remember don't spray in temperatures above 30°C.
- The cooler nights of late autumn, see a return to conditions which can encourage rose fungal leaf diseases like Black Spot, Powdery Mildew and Rust. To control use a preventative spray program with rose fungicide products like Sharp Shooter Rose Black spot & Natural Pyrethrum Concentrate or Sharp Shooter "Triforine". These are "concentrate" products which need to be diluted with water at the recommended rate and sprayed on. Alternatively you can use a handy "ready to use" product like Sharp Shooter "Rose Black Spot and Insect Spray". Remember when spraying roses it's a good idea to try and mist above and below the leaves and don't spray in temperatures above 30°C. Eco Rose is a newer organic spray for Black spot and Powdery Mildew control. For best results mix Eco-Rose with Eco-Oil at recommended rates.

MAY:

- The milder daytime temperatures of May, allow roses to show their true colours. Autumn blooms are often more intensely coloured. It's a great time to buy and plant roses!
- Feed roses one last time before winter.

- Continue spraying to control fungal diseases, like black spot and powdery mildew. The effort taken now will reduce the amount of fungal spores remaining on your roses over winter.
- Relax and enjoy your beautiful autumn roses!

JUNE:

- Roses will often continue flowering well into June, giving a final “hurrah” to the rose season, before winter takes hold.
- Continue spraying to control fungal diseases, like black spot and powdery mildew. The effort taken now will reduce the amount of fungal spores remaining on your roses over winter.
- You can start preparing roses for pruning in July-early August. Removed spent rose blooms (dead-heading), you can also start stripping off wintered/diseased foliage. Some rose growers also do an early prune in which they trim bush roses by taking a third off the height. This reduces the amount of material you need to deal with and gives you a bit of a head start when it comes to the full pruning time in July-August.

JULY:

- July is the start of rose pruning time. In Perth the best times for rose pruning are July through till early-mid August. Rose pruning is actually very easy, so don't be afraid to have a go. Remember roses are very forgiving plants and some pruning is always better than none at all.
- The object of rose pruning is to produce vigorous flower bearing new growth. We also prune to remove older un-productive and diseased wood and to help maintain rose bushes in desirable shapes.
- Make sure your pruning gear is ready to go before you start. You'll need good quality sharp secateurs, pruning saw (modern small folding saws are most useful), a pair of long handled secateurs or loppers, hedge shears, and leather gloves. Alternatively you can use electric hedge shears, a brush cutter or chainsaw.
- **Rose Pruning The Easy Way. What to do.**
Hybrid tea roses, floribunda, miniature, shrub and rambling roses, can simply be cut back to half of their original height, using loppers or hedge shears. Then tidy them up by removing any diseased older wood, crossing branches or branches growing into the centre of the bush. At pruning time it's a good idea to strip the

remaining foliage off roses and remove leaf litter from around the bushes. Immediately after pruning give roses a winter spray with Lime Sulphur, this will help control mites, aphids and fungal spores which can over-winter on the canes.

- For a full run down on rose pruning, including pruning of standards, weepers and climbing roses, see our “ **Rose Pruning the Easy Way**” fact sheet on line at **www.dawsonsgardenworld.com.au**
- If you're new or not sure about rose pruning why not attend one of Dawson's free rose pruning demonstrations. These popular, practical sessions are presented by Dawson's staff and cover all aspects of rose pruning and winter rose care. Check with your local Dawson's store to confirm times and dates for pruning demonstrations.

AUGUST:

- Finish pruning roses by mid August.
- Immediately after pruning give roses a winter spray with Lime Sulphur, this will help control mites, aphids and fungal spores which can over-winter on the canes.
- Watch out for fungal diseases such as Powdery mildew and black spot developing on new, developing foliage. Spray with Eco-Rose to control.