

# Marin Art & Garden Center

## Rose Care Calendar

This calendar is adapted from the rose diet outlined by Rayford Reddell, the author of "Growing Good Roses." By feeding throughout the long warm season here in Marin, we are able to keep the plants blooming and healthy from April to November. You'll want to familiarize yourself with the numbers on fertilizer labels, which are expressed as N-P-K: N is nitrogen, which supports growth and chlorophyll development, P is phosphorus for root and flower formation, and K is potassium, helpful to stems and leaves. All of the fertilizers we use are organic and EB Stone products. We add plenty of compost to the soil at the start of the season as well.

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY

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Roses can be pruned to force dormancy between the second week of January and the first week of February. After pruning, apply humic acid to the base of plants and work into the soil. Water in thoroughly. Apply 2" of organic compost.

### MARCH & APRIL

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**Week one:** Feed with granular, water-soluble high-nitrogen fertilizers. As the Center observes organic gardening practices we use Blood Meal. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for application.

**Week three:** Feed with  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Epsom salts per bush. If you have many roses, look for bulk Epsom salts, otherwise you can use the salts sold for soaks and bathing from the drugstore.

### MAY & JUNE

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**Week one:** Feed with any readily available balanced fertilizer: 10-10-10, 15-15-15 or 20-20-20, all are fine. Choose one that is granular and water soluble. Our organic balanced fertilizer is 5-5-5, so we give an extra application just after week 3.

**Week three:** Feed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup Epsom salts per bush.

### JULY & AUGUST

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**Week one:** Feed with any readily available balanced fertilizer: 10-10-10, 15-15-15 or 20-20-20, all are fine. Choose one that is granular and water soluble.

**Week three:** Feed with fish emulsion solution mixed at one teaspoon per gallon. Apply two gallons of solution per bush.

### SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

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**Week one:** feed with granular, water-soluble 0-10-10 fertilizer. The lack of nitrogen discourages new growth, while the steady phosphorus and potassium help keep blooms going and hardens the branches in preparation for winter pruning.

**Week three:** Feed with fish emulsion solution mixed at one teaspoon per gallon. Apply two gallons of solution per bush.

Stop applying fertilizer at the end of October; your plants should be well fed to last through to the onset of cold weather.