



STARNOTE 520A  
June 2009

## PLANTING A BARE-ROOT ROSE

*For "bare-Root" not "Dormant Pot" Roses*

Bare-root roses don't look very promising at first - they're all dormant stem and brown roots and look dead. But they're the ideal way to get your rose garden off to a great start. Remove any protective wax on the plant by flaking it off or run under warm water and gently use an old toothbrush. Pre-Soak your bare-root roses in a solution of 1 tsp. Dr. Q's Plant Tonic® per gal. water for 1 to 6 hours prior to planting.

### Step-by-Step Instructions

- ◆ **Step 1**
- ◆ **Step 2**
- ◆ **Step 3**
- ◆ **Step 4**
- ◆ **Step 5**

**Step 1:** Dig a hole 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep. Mix well;  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup GOLDUST®, and 1 part PAYDIRT® with 1 part native soil. Form, with this mixture at the bottom of the hole, a mound to within  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the top.

Make sure you have the "Bare-Root" NOT the Plantable Pot Roses! Gently remove the sawdust (or root packing material) from the plant, and open up the roots so that you can place them around your newly created mound of soil mix. [\(top\)](#)



**Step 2:** Position the rose on the soil mound. In warmer climates like ours, position the rose so that the bud union is at or just above ground level. Carefully arrange the roots of the plant around the soil mound. [\(top\)](#)



**Step 3:** Work the soil mixture around the roots to eliminate any air pockets. Firm the soil around the roots and add more soil until the hole is  $\frac{7}{8}$  full. [\(top\)](#)

**Poor Drainage:** Because our soils tend to drain so slowly, it is very important NOT TO BURY the roots of the plant. Keep the roots within  $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the surface.

**Step 4:** Fill the hole with a mixture of 1 tsp. Dr. Q's Tonic and water; and let it soak in, then refill. Only trim canes back if exceptionally long (over 14 inches). Then trim to 8 inches, making 45-degree angle cuts 1/4 inch above outward facing bud eyes. [\(top\)](#)



**Step 5:** To protect canes from initially drying out; Create a 6-inch mound of PAYDIRT® (No Native Soil) over the rose. When buds sprout, in 2 weeks, **remove the mound**. Roots need to breathe, keep them near the surface. No more than 1/2" soil over them.



Because you are planting this rose in the winter, and you likely have slow drainage, initial watering should be about once per week, until we get to 70° temps, then twice per week. Refer to [Star Note #520](#) for additional information on rose care.

[\(top\)](#)