

Planting Instructions for mini roses in Zone 4

They can be grown in pots all season but require steps to insure their survival. They prefer to be planted directly in the ground.

Pick a planting site that gets at least 4-6 hours of bright light.

Dig a hole at least 18 x 18 inches. Bigger is better! The soil here is too alkaline and full of clay. Throw it away. Replace with a good soil mix such as Schultz's, Peters, Scott's, Fafard or Miracle Gro. Buy the kind with time released fertilizer already added to it if possible. Otherwise buy some time released fertilizer and add it to the hole per instructions on the container.

Center the mini rose in the middle of the hole. Cover to the level of where it was in the pot. Add 2-4 inches of mulch around the plant. Cedar or Pine are best. Use small nuggets or shredded type.

Water it in well to start. Keep the soil evenly moist all the time. Mini roses do not like to dry out between waterings. They get spider mites if they get too dry.

Feed it with ½ strength water soluble fertilizer every one to 2 weeks til the end of August. Use Miracle Gro, Schultz's or Peters, etc.

Pinch off dead blooms so it will keep re-blooming.

In late October or early November pile shredded leaves, oak is best, or more mulch up over the plant about 4-6 inches high. For extra protection you can put a mini rose cone over them. You can buy them at Jung Garden Centers. Use the paper mache kind they sell not the styrofoam kinds they sell elsewhere.

Take off the cone early to mid April. Pull back the leaves after April 15th. Water it is it's dry. Prune off rotted or crisp dead canes. After it has leafed out start feeding it again.

If you have to plant it in a container. Start with one at least 8-10 inches in diameter. Put in potting soil that says moisture control on the bag along with time released fertilizer. This has polymers in it that help the roots not dry out too fast. Pots dry out much faster. It will require at least twice as much water and food as an in ground mini rose. Keep it moist all the time. Feed it once or twice a week with ½ strength water soluble fertilizer.

When the roots have filled up this container move to a bigger one. Increase size by half. Keep doing this as it outgrows pots.

End of October move the pot to a garage, or shed. Set it on several layers of damp newspaper and place it in a garbage bag or plastic container. Close it up. Water it lightly once a month. Do not feed it. Bring it outside again middle of April.

You can grow them indoors in the winter under lights in a cool area.. They must be rinsed off in the sink twice a week or more. Be sure to rinse under the leaves too. If spider mites develop rinse off with soapy water. Put a couple of drops of dish soap in a bottle or sprayer and rinse with that. You must rinse the underside of the leaves, the stems and the soil. Feed ¼ strength water soluble fertilizer once a month.

You can grow them near a very sunny window. If it gets hot there they can get spider mites. Cooler is better.

Karen Mezera
President , Madison Rose Society
Master Gardener
ARS Consulting Rosarian
ARS Horticultural Judge