It's time to prepare roses for the long winter

well covered.

Depth of planting is important for other reasons as well. Deep planting

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Our winters are severe and our garden roses, unlike wild ones, aren't genetically programmed to endure the wild cones, aren't genetically programmed to endure the wide temperature swings we so often experience from December until April.

If we could rely on a deep and permanent d-inch snow cover, as gardeners in the Upper Peninsula can, additional coverage wouldn't be necessay. But if we in southern Michigan don't protect our fragile rose bushes, their survival becomes a matter of sheer luck.

Therefore, at this time, prudent gardeners give careful thought to assuring the reappearance of their treasured rose bushes next spring.

Winter preparation actually begins around Aug. 15, when fertilizing should stop. This discourages production of new growth, which may not have time to harden off before winter and will most likely be destroyed.

winter and will most likely be de-stroyed.

The next step in preparing the bush for winter comes around Sept. 15. After that time flowers should not be cut. By allowing the petals to fall naturally and the rose hips to form, the plant is signaled to go into dormancy.

A HEALTHY BUSH obviously has a better chance to survive than one that goes into winter in a weakened condition. This fall, because of the prolonged wet period and extensive white mildew and black spot infections, super sanitation procedures are recommended.

are recommended.

A thorough raking of the rose garden, especially right under each bush, will help get rid of dormans spores and prevent reinfection in the spring. Don't put the raked leaves not expense to the compost pile. Some gardeners are closing the season with a late spraying of ingleide if disease was especially devastating.

The union or graft knob should be planted two to three inches below the ground surface regardless of where it was located in the pot. The shoots should appear to come from below the soil level.

Jane Zich, an experienced and knowledgeobie gardener, believes this will help clean up the area and assure a healthy stant of laudi deserted to the fungicide will cause to solution to adhere to the remaining leaves. Otherwise, it will just run of the company of

Goldner-Waish Landscaping, PontiShe states emphatically that you
shouldn't prune any part of the rose
bush in the fail.
I was very surprised to find an oppossing opinion as excent "Horizonpossing opinion as excent "Horizonganes by half and shorter ones by
about a third. The aim is to reduce
each bush's overall bulk so that it
can be protected most efficiently."
I recommend waiting until spring
when one can clearly see the dead
portions of the rose bush that haven't
survived the winter.

keeps the structure (Irmly anchored against wind rocking. It helps prevent suckering, which is the production of stems growing out from the root portion of the graft rather than the top portion of the graft, that was selected for its bloom. But by far the most important reason is that this joint is extremely susceptible to winter damage and subsequent death. If the woody knobs of your rose bushes are poised above the ground, transplant the bushes now.

too shallow planting. There is a tendency to plant a rose bush at the same
soil level at which it is growing as the
time of purchase, because this is
the time of purchase, because this is
the property of the purchase of

now.

Silver said that November is the
"ideal time" for the move. She explained that now the plant is dormant, it will not be disturbed by the
procedure nearly as much as it
would in the spring when it comes
out of dormancy and is in the process of initiating new growth. As
long as the ground can be dug, it is
safe to transplant roses.

In December, even as late as
Christmas according to Zich, is the
time to mulch the bushes. Applying
the mulch before the ground is frozen isn't recommended because
small rodents find the mound a
warm winter nesting home.



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Just before the ground a about to freeze, bring in a load of soil from elsewhere in the garden ant pile it in a heap around the base of etch plant. Ight, sandy soil is considered better than a humusy mix. Don't ontain the soil from between the plants since that risks exposing the rots and covern to freezing and selections. that risks exposing the trus and crowns to freezing and so defaits the very purpose of this "hilling," as it is called.

Pat the 8-10-inch coneshaped mounds firmly to make sure tat all of the canes are snugly encised. I

pile ground leaves on top of the soil for added predection and place a few evergreen boughs on top to keep it all in place. Perhaps this sounds like a tremendous amount of work. Many gardeness awoil growing roses for that very reason. I rather enjoy this process since it usually is my last contact with the garden until spring. I choose a sunny day and take my time, knowing that I am participating in nature's cycles and that my roses will reward me next summer.

Phama Mia

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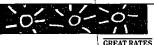


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