

Conservationist Presents Tips On Planting And Caring of Roses In The Eldora Community

**Should Be Planted In
Early Spring With
Shaded Area Avoided**

As Eldora residents obtain previously ordered roses today and Saturday from the Crosley Farm Store and Eldora Greenhouses, a certain number of questions will arise as to the planting and proper care of the flower.

To assist Eldorans in making this community a true "Rose Capital" Cal Moore, Hardin county conservationist, has presented the following planting and caring tips.

It is easy to keep roses in a healthy condition. All they need be provided with is sunlight, water, good drainage, fertilizer, regular spraying and dusting, early spring pruning and winter protection.

When choosing a site for planting, one needs to remember that roses need six hours of sun per day; consequently, shade area should be avoided.

Roses should be planted in

early spring, from March to May. The planting hole should be dug 16 inches and four inches wider than the root spread. When placing the plant into the hole, the bud union (swollen placed on the lower trunk, should be at least two inches below the soil level. Pear Moss, leaf mold or rotted manure should be mixed with the soil from the hole, working it under and around each root as the hole is filled.

The roses should be watered weekly, keeping a watering basin around each plant base with the dike always a few inches beyond the farthest-out branch tips. As the plant grows, the dike should be extended.

To keep the roses blooming nicely, plant food should be provided once a month from leafing-out time until August. The roses should be sprayed or dusted every seven to ten days to keep insects away.

Starting in late summer, gardeners should begin preparing the roses for winter weather. Fertilizing should not

be done after August 1, or watering should not take place after September unless signs of wilting are noticed.

By mid-November a can of extra loose soil should be placed in the basement or other protected area. When the ground freezes, the loose soil should be poured into the center of each bush, making a natural cone that will cover the bottom eight inches of each branch. All old leaves and dead branches should be removed at that time. The protective cone should be removed in the spring following the final frost.