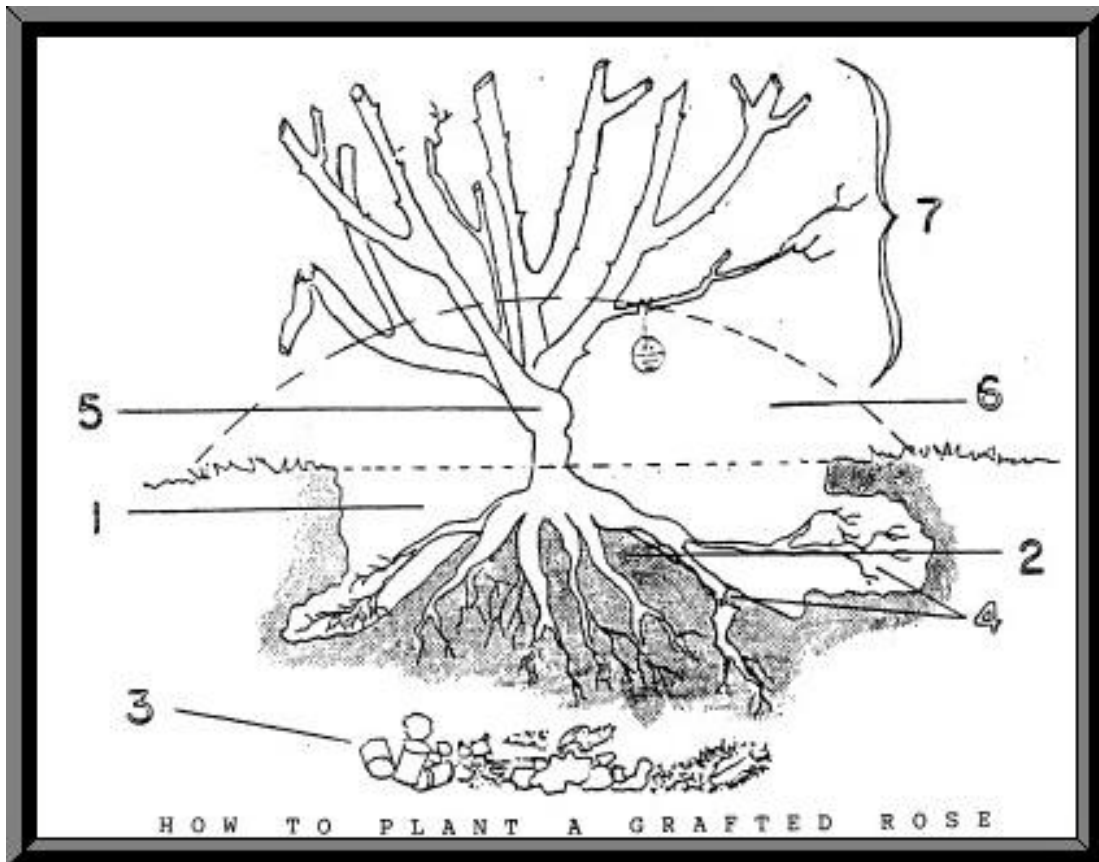


HOW TO PLANT A GRAFTED ROSE

Margaret P. Sharpe



1. Dig a shallow doughnut shaped hole the diameter of the root spread. DO NOT DISTURB THE SOIL IN THE CENTER OF THE "DOUGHNUT!"
2. Shape the soil in the center to fit the crown, or apex of the roots, under the shank, or neck, or the rootstock. Leave the top only high enough so that the rose will "sit" with the uppermost roots below ground level.
3. The old method of digging a deep hole and placing tin cans, nails, tacks, rocks, sand, upturned sod, good luck charms, etc., has been proven to be a poor practice. Roses should be planted in a location well above ground level where the soil has settled and will not sink. Excess water will drain away if planted in this manner, not seep into a sump hole to drown the rose roots. If soil is disturbed beneath the rose it will gradually sink and the bud union will soon be far below ground level.
4. Broken roots should be cut off cleanly and tips of ALL roots fresh cut at time of planting. Arrange all roots in their natural position, even if a trench or tunnel must be dug for extra long ones. WITHOUT EXCEPTION, all roses will do better if soaked in water at least overnight.

Bare root & packaged roses may be placed in a tub of water to cover the roots and part or all of the canes. Soak no longer than 48 hours. Canned roses may be sunk in water, can & all. When removed proceed as with a bare root rose, disregarding the canned soil around the roots.

5. This is the bud union from which all canes to produce every flower the plant will ever have arises. Plant so this will be high and exposed to sun, and away from ground insects and fungi. Always mollycoddle the bud union!!!!!!!

6. Immediately after planting, mound this area with hay, pine needles or any loose mulch material - soil if nothing else - to protect from drying or freezing. As weather warms, gradually remove.

7. Cleanly remove all broken or scarred canes, the wire tag, all twiggy canes and crossing branches. Cut 1/4" above an outside bud, or leaf scar. Make cut on a slant that will allow water to drain off quickly. Large canes may benefit from a painting of the cut with white glue, but small canes are not so important. Make a slanted cut with the high part of the cut above the bud and the lowest part, on the opposite side of the cane, also higher than the bud or leaf scar. Commercial pruning compounds are not satisfactory on roses as they tend to burn the canes. White glue applied from the tip of a squeeze bottle, or shellac, applied with a shoe polish dauber, are safer. Seal only canes around the bud union and the large canes over the size of a pencil. Most roses grow into a nicer shape if cuts are above a bud area on the outer part of the bush to keep it growing in a "vase" shape, open in the center for air and light.

8. Feed newly planted roses after they have bloomed, never when planting as feeder roots will burn. Feed established roses upon heavy pruning and monthly afterward. Modern roses require pruning and heavy feeding to obtain good bloom. Old roses should not be heavily pruned to obtain blooms for they require a good stand of old wood from which to produce bloom. Organic soil is best for all roses but it is suggested even old roses have some rose fertilizer occasionally along with all the manures and compost available. The most important fertilizer for roses is WATER and well drained soil. Check with a 'Consulting Rosarian' of the Houston Rose Society for free advice. It is not wise to add fertilizer to roses after September 1st in this area. It will force new growth late in the season and a Christmas freeze would damage, if not kill, them. Feed in February when major pruning is done after the 2nd coldest weather has occurred.

9. Insecticides are not recommended, mainly due to the fact they damage plants more overall than the insects. Learn something about the Integrated Pest Management of insects to control them. Fungus diseases are prolific here due to our high humidity. Even roses that claimed not to be susceptible to blackspot or mildew will usually prove good hosts for these fungus pests. Modern roses suffer weakened growth if allowed to suffer with them. Many of the old roses will drop all infected leaves, even to denude the bush, and grow new leaves and bloom while they continue growing.

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