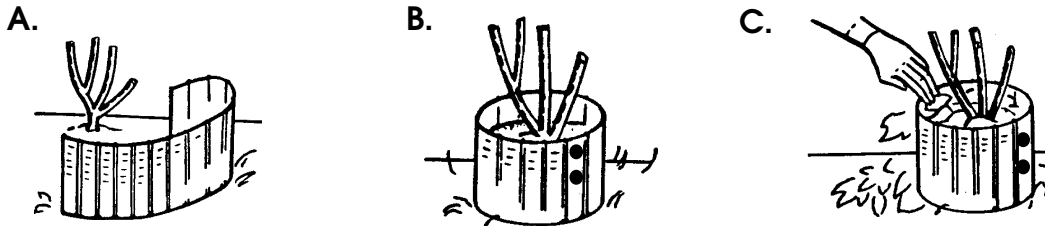


Winterize Your Roses



Grafted roses (typically hybrid teas, grandifloras and floribundas) need extra winter protection at the site of the graft which is located a few inches above ground. Shrub or landscape roses (such as Flower Carpets) are grown on their own root stock and do not have a grafted area to protect.

To winterize your grafted roses and keep them blooming for years to come, follow the important winterizing tips below. Many of these tips are also good recommendations for winterizing shrub roses, but you do not need to use a rose collar. Just a good layer of mulch will do.

- Discontinue feeding roses with granular fertilizers in early August. After August, fertilize roses with a quickly-absorbed water soluble food like ferti•lome Geranium, Hanging Basket & Pansy Food (20-20-20) or Daniels Plant Food. Discontinue using a water soluble food around Sept. 15.
- Do not cut the last blooms in the fall so rose hips will form. This slows growth and helps encourage dormancy.
- Around Thanksgiving is typically the best time to winterize your roses, because they require several hard freezes before applying winter mulch.
- Rake off and remove all fallen leaves from the rose bed to prevent overwintering of many sporeborne diseases such as blackspot.
- Protect against blackspot with a thorough spraying, including the soil around each rose bush, with ferti•lome Systemic Fungicide (contains Banner).
- Water roses thoroughly.
- Place Warp's Rose Collar around base of rose bush (Figure A) and attach it by snapping the two plastic buttons together in matching holes (Figure B). If possible, press the collar down a little into the soil.
- Fill the collar with organic mulch (Figure C). We recommend Cotton Boll Compost or Cottonseed Hulls. Sprinkle a little soil on top so the mulch will not blow away.
- Protection should be about 12" above ground to cover the graft area.
- Prune back only the canes that are in your way or will whip in the wind. Leave major pruning until spring, between April 1-15.
- Do not remove the collar until all danger of a killing frost has passed, between April 1-15 (two weeks late is better than 2 weeks early).

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