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# Roses as Ground Cover

## Ground cover roses and how to take care of them

### Water Requirement

Ground Cover roses are drought and low-water tolerant. These roses have a two-tier root system which allows their surface roots to use any available water near the surface and, once established, their tap roots seek out any lower level water in drought conditions. Generally, just water once or twice a week after they mature.

### Planting

When planting, to help them establish, mix a handful of compost into the soil around the roots and keep the area around the plant moist for the first six months. It also helps to put a small handful of bone meal in the hole before planting

Flower Carpet roses can also be grown as standards or in large pots or hanging baskets. If grown in containers these plants must have regular water and fertilizer.

### Light Requirement

Flower Carpet roses are best grown in full sun and will flower from late October or November through until winter. They are ideal for growing on a bank or spilling over a wall. They will act as a ground cover, but the ground should be free of weeds before planting or a weed mat laid until the rose gets established as hand weeding is difficult due to the prickly growth.

Glyphosate sprays such as Roundup and Zero are not recommended for use near roses as they are extremely sensitive to the spray and may die.

### Pruning

Flower Carpet roses respond well to pruning but can be left unpruned if desired. However, the growers recommend a shear either once a year (for example in late winter) or twice a year in late winter and mid-summer (particularly in warmer climates where growth will be more vigorous). They do not need careful pruning, simply cut back with garden shears.