



So you got a live rose for Valentine's Day and, although it doesn't have leaves or flowers now, you want to make sure that it will be happy and healthy this summer. Whether you are going to plant it or leave it in the pot, be sure that it is in a sunny spot because roses crave 6+ hours of full sun per day. Place it somewhere that deer cannot reach it or else you may never see a single flower (roses are like dessert for our furry friends). If you keep it in a pot, plan to water it every day in the summer and once a week in the winter during dry spells. In the ground, you may only need to water it once a week in the summer and once or twice a month in the winter if there is no rain. Keep an eye on it, though, especially during hot summer months...a wilting, droopy rose is a thirsty rose. You can apply a layer of mulch on top to help conserve water, discourage weeds, and promote healthy growth. In winter, spring, or fall you should prune out dead any branches. Heavy pruning should be done once a year in early spring – March is usually a good time. Check out videos on Youtube with instructions for optimal care of your rose. Finally, find a combination product for roses at your local garden store that acts as a fungicide, insecticide, and fertilizer. Follow the instructions to add the product during the growing season to help prevent mildew, aphids, and other funguses and insects from hurting your rose. The fertilizer will also pump it up to push out strong roots and beautiful blooms. It may seem like a lot of work, but it's all worth it when you get to enjoy fragrant, stunning roses year after year after year.