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Where to plant your roses? Keep in mind they need at least six hours of sunlight. Morning sun is best, and filtered afternoon light is OK.

Once your roses are planted, you'll need to water them. Quite a bit. Pray Austin doesn't endure another drought any time soon. "Roses require water every day, or every other

day at a minimum, when it's really hot, in the middle of summer," says Bernhardt, "Enough water to keep the soil evenly moist, but not soggy

Protect your roses against blackspot, a fungus that causes the leaves to turn yellow and fall off. Spray them once a week with a commercial product such as Funginex, suggests Ciani. But use two or three different products in rotation, so the fungus doesn't build up an immunity to one particular chemical. Or use baking soda. Spraying in the spring and fall should be adequate, says Bernhardt,

as the heat will prevent fungal growth during the summer. Sometimes loosening the soil around the roses to allow more air circulation to the roots will end blackspot, according to Altgelt. Aphids can simply be washed off with a garden

that will suck the beauty from your blooms, you'll have to use a chemical such as Orthene, says Bernhardt. Worms can be killed orthat keeps ganically with Bacillus thuringiensis - commonly known as Bt — available at garden stores.

> 10, urges caution when spraying. He says the most common mistake he sees is overspraying with improperly mixed chemicals

best luck with seaweed spray. "It worked better than any chemicals I tried," he says Roses like to eat, so feed them a liquid fertilizer

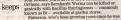
Betty Garnett Pruning - now's the time, by the way - is a topic that puts fear in the hearts of rose-grower-

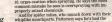
Best advice: Don't prune antiques, and take a prun-ing seminar (offered by the Austin Rose Society and by many local nurseries) to learn how to work with moderns. Pruning impacts the number and size of blooms you get, says Bernhardt, and gets rid of deadwood to allow for healthy new growth.

While xeriscapists might have you believe rose growing is politically incorrect, 5,000 years of rais-

backdrop to your salvias and







every two to three weeks. "Use a balanced fertilizer, or supplement with iron," says consulting rosarian

wannabes. And for good reason. It's complicated.

ing these beauty queens can't be all wrong. With a little work and a little luck, you'll have a love

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