

# SOIL TEST INFORMATION SHEET NO. H-840

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## Roses

1. Roses should be fertilized at least once a year, in late winter or early spring. Apply a recommended slow-release fertilizer to each plant. Evenly distribute the fertilizer under the bush, keeping it off the stems and water in.
2. Additional nitrogen fertilizer may be applied to plants that are actively growing and producing well. These could be in the form of water soluble liquid fertilizers or additional application(s) of a slow release fertilizer.
3. Avoid 8-8-8, 13-13-13, and 34-0-0 in fertilization of roses. The growth response due to application of these fertilizers is not the most desirable.
4. A late summer (August through early September) application of fertilizer can be made to roses pruned at this time. The rate should be  $\frac{1}{2}$  that of the spring application.
5. Foliar sprays of Epsom salt (magnesium sulfate) assists in production of darker green foliage. Avoid soil application(s) of Epsom salt because imbalances in essential nutrients can occur.
6. in addition to fertilization , control insects and diseases on roses and regularly remove old flowers before seed pods (hips) are produced.
7. Maintain a soil pH of 6.5 for optimum rose growth. Correct soil pH by lowering with aluminum sulfate or sulfur and raising with dolomite limestone.
8. Contact your county agent for additional information and help in your fertilization program. The agent also receives a copy of this report for the parish office files.