

VD 2012- ROSES ROCK

QUICK GLANCE -

Start clean - sanitize tools & tables frequently / DAILY!

Use right solution for the job



Rose particulars:

- Avoid removing thorns - wounds become disease entry ports
- Try to peel as little as possible. Peeling triggers ethylene production
- Leave foliage on the stem but out of the water. Cells in the leaves pull the solution into buds
- Keep flower heads dry (Reduces Botrytis potential)



Get the most for your effort:

- Mix ALL solutions with cold water (it travels through stems faster!)
- Get the dose right. Guessing wastes money, time and doesn't give optimal results.
- Give all stems a clean cut! At least 1 inch
- Top up buckets with fresh solution (not tap water!)
- NEVER pour old solutions together
- Don't add ice - ice dilutes the dosage
- Allow time - Dry pack roses need to drink for at least 2 hours before going on sales floor.



Problems/Challenges = Bent Neck & Botrytis

Bent Neck: The reasons for neck bending just under the flower bud are:

- Premature harvesting in a too early stage of flower and stem development.
- The stem is not 'woody' enough yet to carry the weight of the bud.
- Juvenile cutting makes flowers and stems more sensitive to the lack of water.
- The water loss by evaporation is higher than the refill by water uptake
- Too long dry in transit-rotation-sales chain



Botrytis: Air-born fungal disease

Keep flower heads dry

- Allow condensation to evaporate from inside sleeves
- Work clean. Sanitize tables & choppers throughout the day
- Remove infected tissues. Toss in trash can
- Allow plenty of breathing room in buckets for good air flow
- Display sensitive varieties in low-drip areas



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