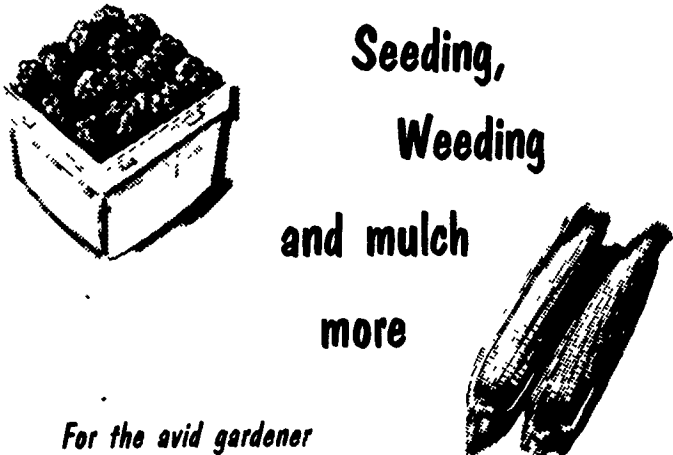


This material can be held in place with a circle of chicken wire or by old bushel baskets with the bottom removed. How neat you need to make this operation will depend on how visible the rose garden is during the winter months. Penn State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity university.



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Fall is a good time to give your rose plants the care that will help them through winter and promote more flowers next spring. If growth this past year hasn't been what you expected, have your soil tested. Then you can fertilize to correct any nutrient deficiencies or imbalances.

Roses grow best at a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. "Soil with a higher or lower pH may have needed trace elements tied up and therefore not available for plant use", says extension agent Jeff Jabco. Soil tests kits are available from the Delaware County Extension Service office in

Rose Tree Park.

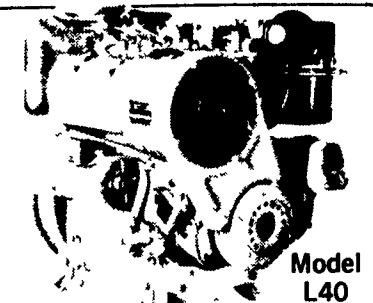
After the first hard frost, prune back hybrid tea rose plants to 18 inches in height to reduce whipping by winter winds. In late November mound soil around the plant so that the graft union is covered by two inches of soil. Bring this soil in from another area of the garden to prevent injury to shallow roots. Remove all dead rose leaves from the ground as they are often a source of disease for the next season.

After the ground has frozen, further protect plants with oak leaves, corn stalks or other organic material that won't pack down.



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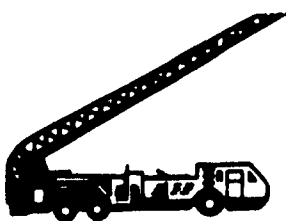
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