



Help for Heroes Rose

Hillier launches a red rose for the *Help for Heroes* campaign

Hillier Garden Centres are proud to lend their support to the *Help for Heroes* charity by launching the Help for Heroes rose.

£5 from the sale of every Help for Heroes rose at www.hillier.co.uk will go directly to the *Help for Heroes* charity, whose first goal is to raise £5-8 million for a new gym and swimming pool at the services' specialist rehabilitation centre at Headley Court in Surrey. Learn more about the *Help for Heroes* campaign at www.helpforheroes.org.uk

The Help for Heroes rose bears a mass of fragrant clusters of deep red full-petalled flowers from late spring right through to the first frosts of winter. Ideal for large containers, mixed borders or low hedging, the Help for Heroes floribunda rose grows 80cm (2.5ft) tall by 60cm (2ft) wide and has a strong, bushy habit and glossy, disease-resistant leaves. Planted in threes, the rose makes a spectacular display in the border.

Says Andrew McIndoe, Deputy Managing Director of Hillier Nurseries: "We are delighted to be able to contribute to the tremendous work of the *Help for Heroes* charity through the sales of Help for Heroes rose. What better than a red rose to symbolise the strength and commitment of British service personnel."

Planting your roses

If you are unable to plant your rose(s) straight away, please ensure that they are kept in a cold place and covered to avoid drying out and kept moist. Alternatively, you may dig a small trench and heel the plants in until the rose bed is ready.

The ground should be prepared in advance, dug deeply and dressed with compost or well-rotted farmyard manure and bone meal. **Fresh manure must not be used.** When replacing old roses with new, ensure that an area 12 inches deep by 18 inches square of soil has been removed and new soil added.

When planting bare root roses, ensure the ground is frost free and friable. The roots should be soaked in water for an hour and a hole dug that is large enough for the roots to spread out. Add a planting mixture of compost and mix well. Get your roses off to a great start by working a slow-release granular fertilizer, such as vitax Q4 into the planting hole. Place the rose in the hole and spread out the roots. Cover with soil and a little planting mixture – water well and replace the rest of the soil. Finally, tread the soil firmly down. **Fertiliser should not come into direct contact with roots.**

Pruning is essential for the long-term health, vigour and shape of the plant and should be carried out in February when the plant is dormant. For Hybrid Tea and Floribunda roses, the first prune after planting should take the stems back to 3 or 4 buds from the base. In following years cut away weak growth and about half of the previous year's growth. Climbers, ramblers and shrubs should be taken back to about 6 inches from the ground for the first prune, whilst subsequent pruning will depend on the way you wish your plant to develop.

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