

How to Care for a Drift Rose Shrub

Rosa ‘Coral Drift, ‘Peach Drift, ‘Pink Drift, ‘Popcorn Drift, ‘Red Drift

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Full Sun (more than 6 hrs/day)

This plant will grow larger, space 30 in. away from other plants and/or structures.

Prefers average, well drained, consistently moist (but not wet) soil.

Garden Uses: Borders, cottage gardens, by the foundation, butterfly gardens

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 5,6,7,8,9,10,11

PLANT PREP:

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant “breathe”. Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

HOLE PREP:

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 18” tall by 18” wide.

PLANTING:

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4” away from its trunk.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Clip weak, diseased, and dead stems in early spring followed by stems that cross each other. This is to promote air circulation, which reduces the odds of fungal infection. Next, trim each shrub to shape so that it fits its allotted space and has an overall attractive appearance. Do not trim branches in fall or winter. Be sure to disinfect pruning equipment before & after each use.

After the first flush of flowers, remove spent blooms and trim each of the flowering branches back by about 1/3rd of their overall length. This helps to promote new foliage and new blooms. Continue to cut plants in this manner after each flush of bloom. If the plant becomes too large or untidy, after flowering, cut back all the stems by 2/3rd of their overall length.

If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsps. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6” away from its stems.

Water regularly to maintain consistent soil moisture, preferably with drip irrigation. Soil shouldn’t be kept too wet.