



BEINING NURSERY & LANDSCAPING, LLC

26481 Co. Road N

Cloverdale, OH 45827

Ph. (419) 453-3438 Fax (419) 453-3439

Shrub Rose Winter Protection

I met recently with another nursery owner in the area and the question of the cold hardiness of certain new rose varieties came up. We both agreed that it has been so long since we've had a very cold winter in this area, that the dozens of new "hardy" shrub rose varieties introduced over the last several years haven't really been tested by a hard, Northwest Ohio winter. Are the "hardiness" claims by the big nationwide growers legitimate? We both think that by the second season, the plants should be established well enough to handle any winter Ohio could throw at them, but perhaps the first winter they could benefit from some protection. He's telling people who planted the "Flower Carpet" rose varieties this year to cover them this winter. The procedure is simple:

- Wait until the ground freezes.
- Cover the plant with some type of breathable material such as burlap, a bed sheet, dad's old underwear, etc.
- Cover the material and plant with enough mulch to keep the wind from blowing the material off.
- In late February or early March, grab the edges of the material and toss off the mulch.
- Make sure you get them uncovered early.

Also remember that even in a mild winter, it's normal for these plants to have branches die back during the winter. Sometimes the entire top dies back. These roses are not grafted and they will resprout from the base as weather warms up.

The Flower Carpets and other shrub rose varieties have been a reliable and unique group of plants to add to our design pallet. They're well worth a little extra effort the first year.