

Rose Pruning and Care
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ROSE PRUNING

- **Reasons for Pruning roses**
 - ✓ Keep plants healthy
 - ✓ Promotes growth
 - ✓ Removes dead broken or diseased canes.
 - ✓ Trains plant to desired shape.
 - ✓ Encourages flowering, more blooms, or larger blooms.
- **Tools Needed** (see photos below)
 - ✓ Bypass-type hand pruners
 - ✓ Loppers
 - ✓ Pruning saw
 - ✓ Gloves
 - ✓ Disinfectant to keep tools clean
 - ✓ Oil
- **Pruning procedure**
 - ✓ Remove all dead, damaged, discolored, weak stems.
 - ✓ Check center of stem for discoloration.
 - ✓ Crossing stems (one must be removed)
 - ✓ Prune to open for air circulation.
 - ✓ Cut just above leaf bud facing out from center of plant.
 - ✓ Cut ¼ inch above the bud and angled at the same angle as the bud.
- **Dead Heading** (see illustrations below)
 - ✓ Dead-heading is cutting off faded old flowers.
 - ✓ Making a diagonal cut just above the 5 or 7 leaf branch.
 - ✓ All pruning cuts on canes larger than thickness of a pencil can be sealed with wood glue to prevent cane borers.
- **Different types of roses** (see photos below)
 - ✓ Roses such as **Floribunda**, **Grandifloras**, and **Hybrid Tea** roses need a heavy annual pruning in the spring. Prune hard to create large blooms/ this will produce fewer blooms but larger ones. Cut all but 3 to 5 vigorous canes. Prune canes down to 15 to 18 inches from ground cut out any cane thinner than a pencil. In late fall prune back by 1/3 their height.
 - ✓ **Hybrid Tea** repeat flowering all season, have well formed large high center buds, 8 to 12.5 cm with long straight stems. They are the most popular due to more variety of color. Bushes tend to be upright 2 meters tall
 - ✓ **Old fashion & climbers** that bloom once a year should be pruned after flowering, not in spring.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR MONTHLY CARE OF ROSES

JANUARY: Plant bareroot roses this month, but no later than mid February. Plant container roses anytime except during the heat of summer. Strip off old leaves from canes prior to pruning to force the bush into dormancy. Prune roses before they leaf out. Remove debris from the area and spray with a dormant oil mixed with a pesticide to control overwintering pests on bushes and soil.

FEBRUARY: In mid-February, fertilize roses with a balanced fertilizer. Add a cup of sulfur, 1/4 cup of magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts) and one-half cup of super phosphate to each established rose to stimulate new cane growth and improve bloom quality. Always water bushes thoroughly before and after fertilizing. Apply a 3-inch layer of mulch to the rose bed after applying the fertilizer.

MARCH, APRIL, & MAY: Continue to fertilize roses monthly with a balanced rose fertilizer. Apply iron chelates as needed to correct iron deficiency. For higher quality blooms, foliar feed with a soluble fertilizer in early April. For larger blooms, remove secondary buds below the lead bud on hybrid teas. For a more uniform bouquet of flowers, on florabunda remove the large center blooms. Water early in the morning to minimize mildew. If possible, avoid wetting the foliage - use drip or soaker irrigation. Use a recommended fungicide if the mildew becomes a problem. Control aphids and thrips with a recommended insecticide. The big rose display occurs from mid-April through May. For fresh roses, cut back to where a cane is strong enough (thickness of a pencil) to support a new bloom. Cut just above an outside leaf (five leaflets.)

JUNE, JULY, & AUGUST: Fertilize roses at one half the normal rate. Yellow leaves indicate iron deficiency - treat with iron chelates. In June, apply one fourth cup of magnesium sulfate (Epsom salt.) Apply one cup again at the end of August. Water deeply once a week or more often if necessary. Remove faded roses after bloom. Apply three to four inches of mulch to the rose beds and sprinkle a light application of nitrogen over the covering to hasten decomposition. Roses produced during the summer are usually half the size of spring and fall roses. Treat powdery mildew and insect-infested roses with the proper sprays

SEPTEMBER: Return to normal amounts of fertilizer. Also include one cup soil sulfur and one-half cup superphosphate per plant. For higher quality blooms, apply a soluble fertilizer to the foliage every two weeks until buds show color. Spray to control any insects and diseases.

OCTOBER: With cooler weather and shorter days, lengthen the intervals between irrigations, but do not let the root zone dry out. Fertilize with a balanced rose fertilizer and one cup of sulfur to spur on blooms before Columbus Day. The fall bloom cycle begins at the end of the month and continues into December. Foliar fertilize until buds show color. Disbud hybrid teas leaving the terminal buds for higher quality blooms. Remove suckers that rise below the bud union or graft near the soil line. Cut off spent blooms to stimulate flowering.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER: Irrigate every two weeks if needed. This is an excellent time to prepare new rose beds. Evaluate the roses and discard those that did not perform well to make room for newer varieties. Have the soil tested if there is a suspected problem or roses have performed poorly.

DO NOT FERTILIZE ROSES IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, AND JANUARY.

IRRIGATION

Proper irrigation is necessary to produce quality roses in the desert Southwest. Irrigate to the bottom of the root zone (about 18 to 24 inches deep) with each watering. Check irrigation depth by pushing a steel bar or a long screwdriver into the soil. Where it stops indicates how deep the water penetrated. Deep, infrequent waterings allow air to return to the soil between irrigations, encourages roots to grow deeply, avoids root rot and flushes away salts. Light, frequent irrigations cause shallow root growth which leads to water stress during

the summer or windy periods. Determine when to irrigate again by testing the soil 2 inches below the bush's canopy. If the soil is moist, wait a few days and test again. If it's dry and crumbles to the touch, irrigate

The above information is excerpted from UNCE pub SP-03-15. These are general guidelines. All may not always apply to your microclimate.

INSECTS AND DISEASE

- To control some common insect pests of roses such as:
 - ✓ Aphids, Whiteflies – Use a mild dishwashing detergent such as Ivory soap, diluted with water at the rate of about 2 tbsps per gallon of water. Spray all leaf surfaces, especially the undersides. Dr Bronners Organic Peppermint Castile Soap (no endorsement implied) mixed with water has also proven quite effective to rid your roses of pests.
 - ✓ If roses come out all small with brown in the center and appear to be wilting, you may have Western Flower Thrips. Cut the damaged roses off and treat for thrips with dishwashing detergent (see above), insecticidal soap, Neem oil, or Spinosad.
 - ✓ Scale Insects – Use Horticultural oil
 - ✓ Cane Borers – When pruning roses, use a dab of Elmers glue to put on the end of the cane after the pruning cut. This prevents female wasps from laying eggs that become young borers on the rose canes. If you already have borers, cut the cane below the holes until you find healthy wood.
 - ✓ Leaf Cutter Bees- make perfectly round holes cut near the edges of the leaves. These leaf pieces are used to make egg partitions inside their burrows. The damage they cause is strictly cosmetic and warrants no control.
 - ✓ Spider Mites- Mites are very tiny relatives of spiders. They can be red, black, or brown in color. Mites pierce the underside of rose leaves and suck sap, causing the leaf to turn gray or bronze. A fine web is a sign of a heavy infestation. A high-pressure washing with water from a garden hose directed to the underside of the leaves every 2-3 days can manage mites. This will interrupt their life cycle. Miticides such as dicofol help in heavy infestations. Insecticidal soaps are also effective in controlling mites.
 - ✓ Rose Midge- The rose midge is a tiny fly that lays eggs in the buds and shoots of roses. The larvae that develop start feeding and causes bent, misshapen or blasted flower buds and withering of the stem tips. Eventually they turn black. Control consists of pruning out buds and applying insecticide if the problem persists. Midge damage usually shows up in July. Because the larvae fall to the soil to pupate, an effective control is to place weed barrier fabric under the plants to catch the larvae and prevent them from entering the soil to cause damage to the roots.
 - ✓ Sawfly-Rose slug- The common rose slug causes skeletonizing. The larvae look like caterpillars but are actually more closely related to bees and wasps. Control can include hand picking and the use of horticultural oils or insecticidal soaps.
 - ✓ Japanese Beetles- Japanese beetles are difficult to control because they are strong fliers and constantly reinvade the area. Home gardeners still find that Sevin provides the best control. This means that reapplication needs to be done on a regular basis to protect the foliage and flowers. Hand picking is also a suggested control for small numbers of beetles. Traps can actually attract more beetles into the area. Use with caution and place in areas away from the rose garden.

You can also use a strong blast of water from a garden hose to wash off some of the insects above. Additionally you can mix 1 quart of water, 1 tsp of liquid dish soap and a pinch of cayenne pepper. Do not dilute before spraying on plants. Or, try this; in a spray bottle combine 2 parts rubbing alcohol, 5 parts water, and 1 tablespoon liquid soap.

Make sure you test any of these solutions on a small area of your plant first to make sure your roses are not negatively impacted. Always spray in the early morning or later evening when the sun is not as bright and the temperature not as hot. Wait about a day to see if any negative effects show.

FERTILIZING

- Use Hi Yield Cottonseed meal slow release fertilizer (6-1-1), Blood Meal on roses.
- Use 16-20-0 (Ammonium Phosphate) fertilizer on roses, or 10-10-10. They don't really need potassium. Always follow directions on package
- Do not fertilize new roses with nitrogen until after their first blooms.
- Cut bananas and put them around roses into the soil and cover them for potassium nutrition.
- Use eggshells (make sure you grind them up first) and put into soil for roses.
- Prune climbing roses only after they have blossomed.
- Epsom salt can be used on roses to make the plants green and beautiful. Put it into the soil.
- For yellowing roses, you may need nitrogen and phosphorous (See above)..
- For powdery mildew: 2 tsps baking soda, 2 tsps summer oil (olive oil) in 1 gallon of water, or Apply a fungicide containing triforine. Respray at intervals of 7 to 10 days. If mildew reappears-destroy leaves in the fall.

Tools needed for pruning



Rose Pruning Gloves



Miscellaneous tools



Silicone Spray
No endorsement implied



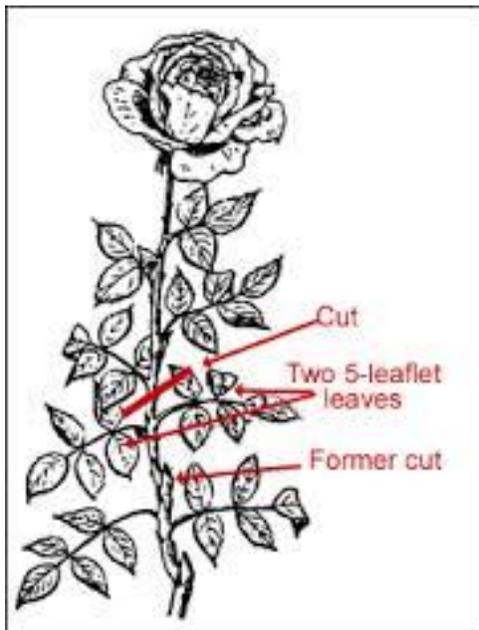
Pruning Saw



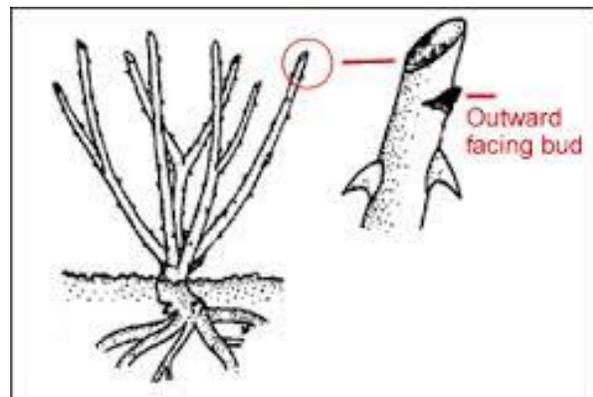
Bypass Loppers

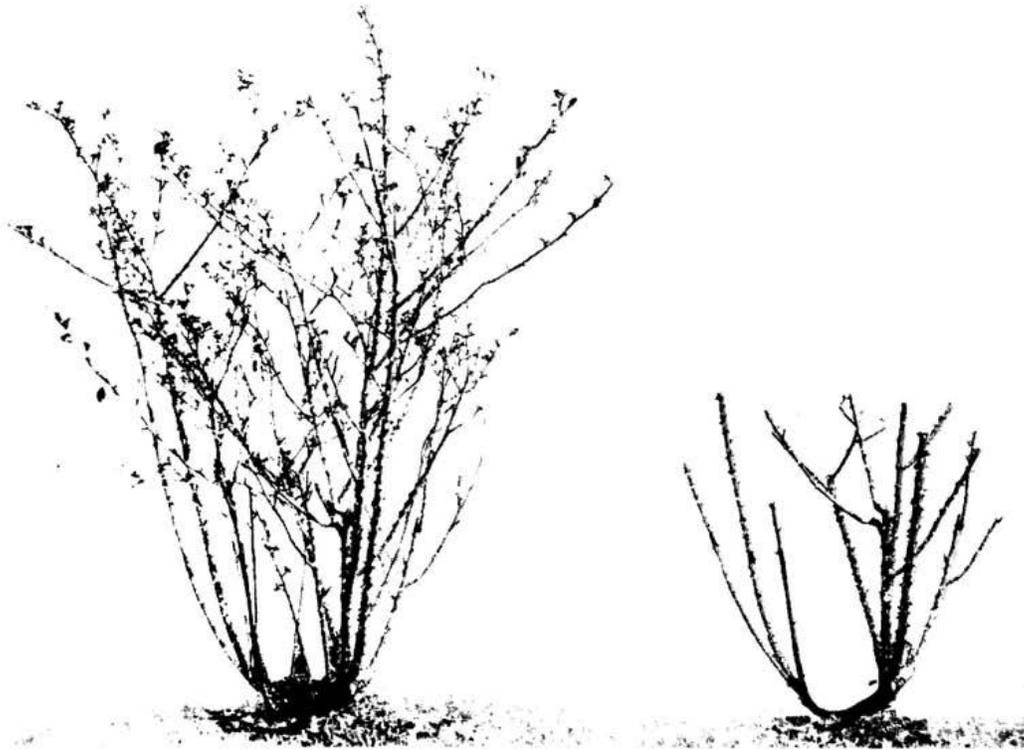


Pruners



Deadheading





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Left, rose bush before pruning. Right, same bush after pruning; all dead wood and weak growth have been removed and canes have been cut to a uniform height.

Compiled by Rick Delmas, Farm Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension Inyo & Mono Counties

Different Types of Roses



Hybrid Tea Rose – Bear one rose per stem



Floribunda – Bear abundant clusters of roses per stem



Grandiflora – Bear several roses per stem



Climbing Rose



Old Garden Rose – Developed before modern roses



Miniature Rose