

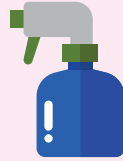
Pruning your Roses



WHAT YOU WILL NEED



Sharp Tools



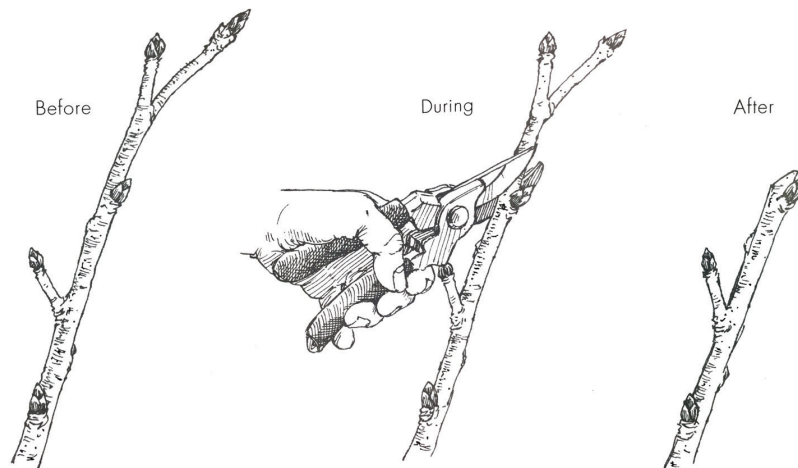
Spray Bottle with cleaning solution (10% bleach solution)

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Clean your tools before beginning and between each plant (if the plant is diseased, clean between each cut)
- Prune to promote the health of your roses, and to control the shape and size
- Roses should be pruned when the plants are dormant (January & February)
- Clear grass, leaves, and debris away from base of plant
- Look for the “Five D’s”; Dead, Diseased, Damaged, and Diagonal Branches, and Done.
- Cut surfaces should be white, not brown. If it is brown, cut back further until tissue is white and healthy.

Correct Method

A slanting cut, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above a bud. In addition to being the best spot to inspire new growth in the bud below, it leaves less stub and the slant dries out faster after a rain.



Incorrect Cuts



Too close to the bud.

The tender part of the bud will be too near the cut, may not receive enough sap, and will dry out — or it may be damaged by freezing temperatures.



Too far from the bud.


The dead stub will rot and look ugly, and the rot can spread easily to the rest of the tree. Likewise, when you're cutting off dead branches, always cut back to a live bud or branch so that no deadwood will be left on the plant.



A flat-topped cut.

This cut is not only stubby and unattractive, but it is also slow to dry out after a rain, inviting rot and disease.

STEP BY STEP:

- Wait until your roses are dormant. Because of our mild climate, roses rarely go into full dormancy. However, they are ready to be pruned after going through a few hard frosts and entering slow growth mode.
- Go for a “Vase” shape. The goal is to have an open centered bush that has a vase shape. 
- Start by cleaning debris such as grass, leaves, and anything that might harbor insects and disease.
- Remove dead and diseased wood first. Any canes that are old and show deep furrows also need to be removed.
- Open up the plant. Remove really thin canes. Remove canes that cross through the center of the bush. Remove any branches that cross or rub together.
- Don't keep green canes on old wood. Remove any canes that have green canes growing out of an old cane. Keep only new green canes that are growing out of the bud union.
- Remove any suckers; the long, slender, flexible canes that originate from just below the bud union. Remove these by pulling it down and off the plant. If you cut it off, any undeveloped growth eyes left will produce more suckers in the future.
- Final Plant height; for a moderate pruning cut back the stems that are left to one third their length. This is recommended for nearly all established bush and standard roses. For hard pruning cut it back even further so that only 3 or 4 buds are left from the base of the plant. This is recommended only for newly planted bushes.
- To finish, leave the new cuts alone. Spray the finished roses with a winter weight dormant oil to smother any pest eggs. Do not paint any cuts with a sealing compound as this may seal in any pests and diseases.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ROSE MAINTENANCE AND SPECIFIC TYPES OF ROSES, WE RECOMMEND THE BOOK PRUNING MADE EASY BY LEWIS HILL



Need more help?

Just ask one of our
garden associates!