

Winter Pruning Your Roses



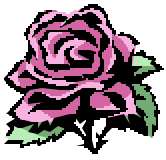
Basic winter/dormant season pruning for **all** roses:

1. Remove portions damaged by frost. Winter damaged wood is sometimes hard to see. Healthy wood should be white clear through. If there is any brown discoloration remove more of the cane.
2. Remove dead canes to the crown. Dead canes will be brown and shriveled both inside and out. Use a saw if necessary.
3. Remove all of the weak, thin, spindly growth that tends to crowd the center of the bush. Remove this growth all the way, leave no stubs.
4. Remove any suckers. Suckers should be removed completely not just clipped off where they emerge from the soil. Dig or move soil away, until you can see where the sucker is connected to the trunk or root. Do not cut the sucker off as this will encourage additional sucker growth. You can pull the sucker off, often by pushing at its base with your thumb.
5. Always cut at a 30 to 45 degree and about 1/4 inch above an outside facing bud. The angle should slope away from the bud.
6. If the cane pruned is 1/2 inch or larger across, seal the cut with white glue or tree seal. This prevents insects from entering through the wound.
7. Remove and dispose of all leaves from bush and ground.

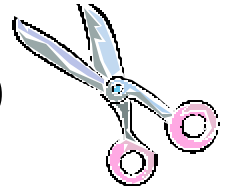
Hybrid Teas: Prune to maintain 3-5 strong healthy canes. Newer plants may not be able to maintain 5 canes. The canes should be uniformly spaced, ideally forming a vase shape. Old non-producing canes should be removed at the bud union. Remove overlapping interior growth so the remaining canes of the rose will have good light penetration and air circulation. Prune the remaining canes down to 12-18 inches if needed. Some gardeners in mild climates leave canes 24-30 inches tall to have a larger, fuller plant the next spring.



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Winter Pruning Your Roses (cont.)



Grandifloras: These are pruned just as a hybrid tea, but most are more vigorous and may have as many as 8 structural canes.

Floribundas: Most are low growing and tend to produce a twiggy interior growth that should be removed. Retain 6-8 canes and try to keep the plants open with plenty of room for new flower clusters to develop.

Miniatures: Prune essentially the same way as the larger roses but on a mini scale. Hanging baskets are trimmed to the edges of the basket and the crown is flattened.

English: Prune to maintain 6-8 strong canes. These can take 2 years to become established and want less pruning during this time. Prune no lower than 3 feet for good bloom. Otherwise prune as a hybrid tea.

Tree Roses: Always remove any growth from the trunk, below the upper bud union. Principles of pruning are the same but the plant is at eye level and an attractive, balanced structure is more important. Check the support stake to make sure it is in good condition and not rubbing or chafing the plant. The canes should be cut back to 8-12 inches.

Shrub Roses: Most need little pruning. Prune only to shape when young. When mature, remove twiggy growth and very old canes. Prune old garden roses by removing the oldest canes, and shortening the others by about 1/3.

Climbing Roses: Don't prune any climbers (except to remove dead or diseased wood) for the first two years. This will allow them to establish mature structural canes.

Large Flowered Climbers: Shorten flowering laterals to 3-6 inches or 3-4 buds. Remove faded flowers of repeat-flowering kinds to hasten second bloom. Best flowering laterals come from 2-3 year-old cane.

Climbing Sports: Long-lived canes produce top growth from which flowers arise. Shorten these laterals to 2-6 inches. Remove faded flowers to hasten a repeat bloom.

Ramblers: Remove 2 year-old canes to their origin after flowering, in the spring or early summer.