
Rose Pruning

Roses truly benefit from proper, purposeful pruning:

- ❖ Keeps the plant healthy, promotes new growth, removes dead, broken or diseased canes, and/or trains the plant to a desired shape
- ❖ Encourages flowering (either more blooms or larger blooms)
- ❖ Keeps modern rose varieties blooming repeatedly all summer long
- ❖ Improves plant health by increasing air movement through the plant's foliage
- ❖ Roses 3 years old and younger should be only lightly pruned, if at all

You will need clean, sharp tools: bypass-type hand pruners, loppers, and possibly a pruning saw for larger cuts.

Pruning that all roses need

- ❖ Remove all dead, damaged or weak stems leaving only the most vigorous, healthy canes
- ❖ Remove dead wood to the crown, or to the nearest healthy bud
- ❖ If there are no live buds, remove the entire branch or cane to the base of the plant
- ❖ Pith (located in the center of the stem) should be creamy white, not brown or gray, on healthy, live wood
- ❖ If the inside of the stem is brown, prune the cane back farther, at least one inch below the dead area
- ❖ Prune the bush to make it more open in the center—will increase air circulation and help prevent diseases
- ❖ Make pruning cuts above a leaf bud facing **out** from the center of the plant—new growth comes from the bud just below a pruning cut
- ❖ Make a cut ¼-inch above the bud and angled at the same angle as the bud
- ❖ Whenever two canes cross each other, one should be removed
- ❖ Removal of growth into walking paths, etc.
- ❖ All major pruning should be done in late winter, just as buds break dormancy—just as they begin to swell and become visible
- ❖ All pruning cuts on canes greater than the thickness of a pencil may be sealed with wood glue to prevent cane borers from entering

Hybrid Teas, Floribundas and Grandifloras (prune as in illustration)

- ❖ Prune out all suckers emerging from below the graft
- ❖ Prune hard (far back) for fewer but larger blooms; less hard for more but smaller blooms
- ❖ General recommendation: cut out all but three to five of the healthiest, most vigorous canes—prune these canes down to 15 to 18 inches from ground level
- ❖ Remove any canes thinner than a pencil
- ❖ In the late summer/early fall, prune back by about 1/3 of their height to encourage vigorous autumn blooms

Climbing Roses (make cuts as in illustration, but do not prune entire plant as in illustration)

- ❖ Except for dead or diseased growth, do not prune until **after** flowering (bloom only once, on wood from the previous year's growth)
- ❖ After flowering: prune out all weak or damaged stems and removed the oldest canes, leaving five to seven strong canes untouched

Shrub Roses (make cuts as in illustration, but do not prune entire plant as in illustration)

- ❖ Shrub roses should be pruned in late winter, like other modern roses
- ❖ Remove up to 1/3 of the canes the oldest, woodiest stems—cutting them back to the plant’s crown, and up to 1/3 of the height

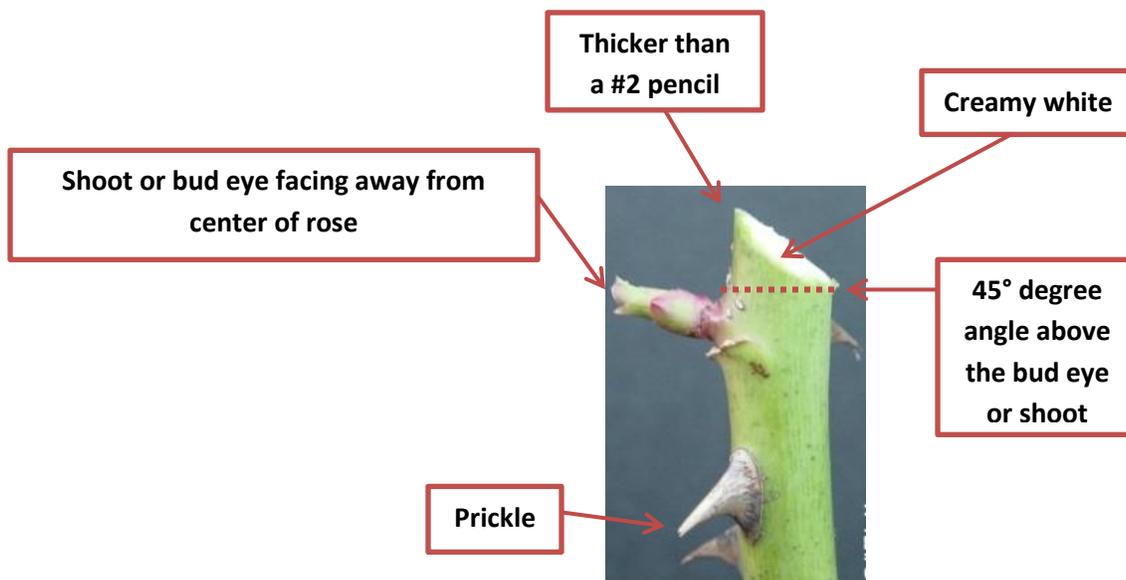
Old Garden (Antique) Roses (make cuts as illustration, but do not prune entire plant as in illustration)

- ❖ Most only bloom once in a season—prune immediately after bloom to keep old roses under control
- ❖ Do not need hard pruning—can ruin their graceful shape and severely reduce their flowering
- ❖ Remove no more than 1/3 of each bush; generally, remove only the oldest stems that are no longer productive
- ❖ If you like, leave some of the red hips (fruits) for fall and winter color

Deadheading

- ❖ Cutting off old, faded flowers to encourage formation of new flowers
- ❖ The first few leaves behind the flower will have only 3-leaflets. Remove the flower (or group of flowers) by making a diagonal cut just above the next 5 or 7-leaflet leaf down on the stem
- ❖ Cut should be made above a strong bud that will produce a healthy new cane

The “Perfect” Cut



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Or

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