



*Gardeners Helping Gardeners Succeed*

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# All About Roses

## Planting, Fertilization, & Watering

Greenhouse Garden Center's roses were planted bareroot this spring, and until they are fully rooted out should be planted with special care so that the new roots are not damaged and your roses do not suffer transplant shock. After digging your planting hole, mix the soil you removed with about ½ as much compost or *Rose Planting Mix*. Backfill the hole with the compost and soil mixture so that the surface of the soil in the pot will be at the same level as the surrounding soil. Watering the soil gently will eliminate any air pockets. Water with a dilution of *Master Nursery RootMaster B1* to help your plant become established more quickly. Regular watering and fertilization are essential to the healthy growth of your roses. Consider using *Bayer Systemic Rose & Flower* or *Dr Earth Rose & Flower Fertilizer* to both fertilize and protect your plants from insect damage. You may need to water your roses daily if the temperatures are over 85° and the wind is blowing—for the first week only. Roses respond well to watering every three days or less once they become established.

## Pests & Diseases

**Spider mites** are minute reddish insects prevalent in hot, dry weather. Infected plants look yellow, dry, and dusty. Leaves become mottled on top then yellow, curl up, and fall off. Undersides of leaves may be covered in fine webs. Spray **dormant oil** just before leaf budbreak to kill overwintering eggs. Apply a summer horticultural oil or stronger miticide to kill adults.

Signs of **sucking thrips** include brown streaks and spots on petals, distorted blossoms, bud failure, and white, withered leaves. Remove infected plant parts. Apply foliar insecticide or a systemic poison.

**Aphids** congregate and feed on new shoots, leaves, and flower buds, deforming plant parts. Knock off adults with blasts of water from the hose or spray plants with **insecticidal soap** and summer horticultural oil. Dormant oil in late winter or early spring will kill the overwintering eggs.

**Borers** tunnel into canes and twigs, causing internal damage. Infected canes turn brown, wilt, and die back. Prune infected canes back to areas of healthy growth and burn the cuttings. Seal cuts with *Tanglefoot Tree Sealer*.

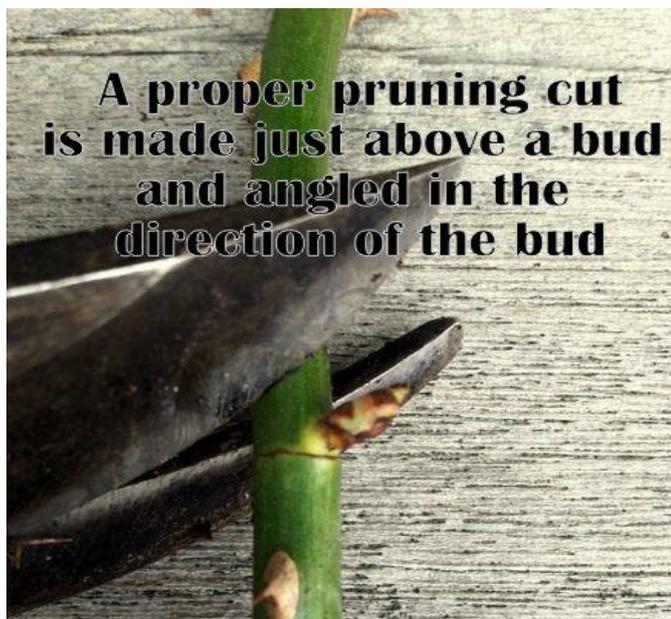
**Leaf-cutter bees** make regular circular cuts in leaf margins as they collect nesting material. These are beneficial pollinators and should be tolerated.

**Black spot**, a waterborne fungus, infects leaves during warm, humid weather. Small black spots appear on the leaves, which become encircled with yellow rings. Leaves yellow and drop off, defoliating the entire plant. Leave plenty of space between plants and avoid overhead watering. Remove infected leaves and discard them. Spray with fungicide.

**Powdery mildew** forms a grayish white powder on leaves and may stunt growth of young canes and interfere with flower development. Give plants good ventilation. Treat with fungicide.

## Classification of Roses

- .. **Climbing:** Roses with long arching canes (to 14'), suitable for training on low fences or trellises.
- .. **English:** A new class of roses in which the repeat blooming habits of modern roses are combined with the form and fragrance of old garden roses.
- .. **Floribunda:** Medium sized flowers mostly borne in cluster, often more compact in habit, medium length stems.
- .. **Grandiflora:** Large flowers borne in clusters, usually taller in habit, individual stems within each cluster are suitable for cutting.
- .. **Groundcover Rose:** A rose with a prostrate habit that can be used for bedding.
- .. **Hybrid Musk:** A modern class of roses with an old-fashioned look. Their long, arching canes can be trained as shrubs or climbers
- .. **Hybrid Rugosa:** Exceptionally hardy, vigorous, usually upright compact plants. Most are recurrent bloomers.
- .. **Hybrid Tea:** Large flowers generally borne one per stem, medium to tall in habit, with long cutting stems.
- .. **Miniature:** Small flowered roses with proportionately smaller foliage, often very compact in habit. Stems are also shorter but still suitable for cutting.
- .. **Patio Rose:** A miniature tree rose of 18" to 24" in height.
- .. **Polyantha:** Polyanthas present their delicate flowers in sprays well above their foliage.
- .. **Rambler:** A climbing rose, that presents clusters of small blooms on long, slender canes.
- .. **Shrub:** Any rose that presents its blooms close to the foliage and is well suited for unattended use in the landscape, usually good disease resistance and hardiness. Most are grown on their own root.
- .. **Once-blooming:** A rose that has one annual bloom over an extended period in late spring or early summer. Most species and many old garden roses are once-blooming. Most modern roses are not.



Choosing buds that are headed away from the center of the plant will keep your rose open in the middle, improving air circulation among the leaves.

The cane on the right is hollow, a sign of cane borers. Old stems may be hollow all the way to the ground, so go ahead and cut them back to the base. As you're pruning off winter damage, cut down to healthy pith (wood).



## Pruning

Protect your skin with long sleeves and heavy gloves that reach well past your wrists. Use a sharp pair of bypass pruners—they work like scissors, with the blades slicing past each other. Anvil pruners will crush the rose stems instead of making a clean cut. Disinfect your pruners as you work to avoid spreading disease—a mixture of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water is a good disinfectant. Use *Doc Farwell's Seal & Heal* to seal the canes to keep rose cane borers out. If the cane is wider than about 1/8in., seal it.

## When to Prune

Pruning should be done while plants are dormant. We recommend April 15th. Roses that only bloom once usually bear their flowers on year-old wood. Prune these right after they bloom or you'll be cutting off most of next year's flower buds.

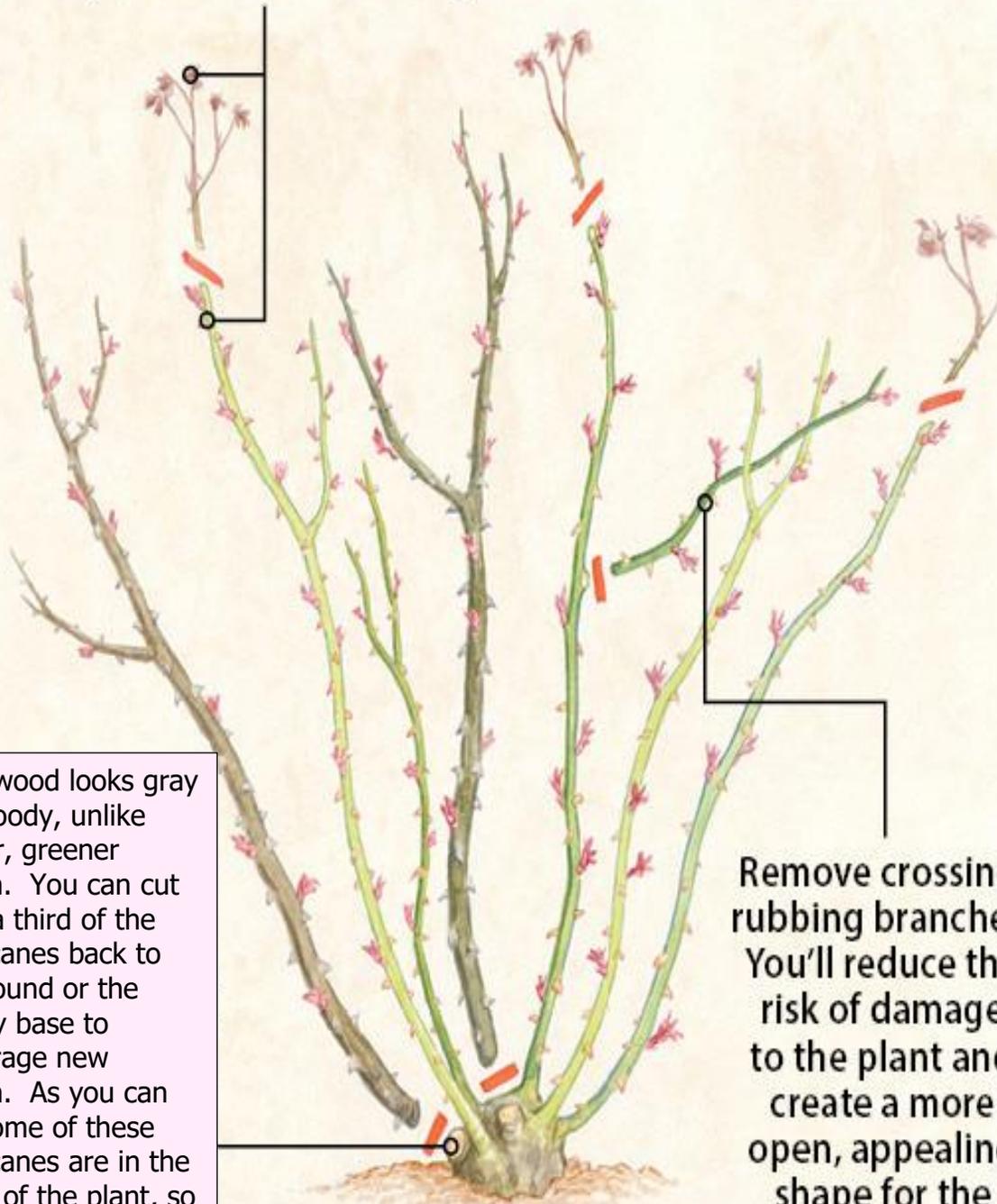
## How to Prune

1. Step back and look at your rose before you start pruning. As you choose which canes to cut, remember that you want to open up the center of the shrub for good air circulation.
2. Remove crossing and rubbing canes—those areas will create wounds that could let in disease.
3. Cut back blackened, winter-damaged tips, trying to keep all the canes about the same length.
4. Prune old canes back as close to the base as possible. For winter protection, roses should be mulched deep enough to cover the graft, so you may have to pull back the mulch.

**Shorten the plant by not more than two-thirds of new growth.** Don't prune climbers—thin them. Deadhead (removal of spent flowers) throughout the season to encourage rebloom. You'll want to make deadheading cuts right above five-leaflet leaves that face outward.

Most shrub roses grow on their own roots, but hybrid teas and many other roses are grafted onto a rootstock. When you see a cane emerging from the rootstock, below the graft, that needs to be removed. Often, the foliage is a different color or size on these suckers. Cut them back as close to the root as possible.

**Trim off any dry, blackened, winter-damaged growth at the end of the canes, looking for an outward-facing bud.**



Older wood looks gray and woody, unlike fresher, greener growth. You can cut up to a third of the older canes back to the ground or the knobby base to encourage new growth. As you can see, some of these older canes are in the center of the plant, so you'll also be opening up the middle of the plant.

Remove crossing, rubbing branches. You'll reduce the risk of damage to the plant and create a more open, appealing shape for the rose bush.