

Orchard

NURSERY

LAZY K & ATRIUM

Pruning Roses January 2024 Shawna Anderson, ACCNP

Why Prune Roses?

- Remove dead, diseased and damaged canes
- For better air circulation
- To promote new canes
- For more flowers

When to Prune?

- Pruning should be done in the winter (December thru February, before the buds start to swell. March is too late).
- Deadheading can be done spring thru fall

Tools Needed:

- Gauntlet Gloves
- Hand Shears and Holster (my favorite brand is Felco)
- Loppers (for branches that are larger than 1/2")
- Pruning Saw
- Bonsai Pruning Saw (optional)
- Knee Pad
- Rake
- Garden Trug
- Tool Sharpener
- Disinfecting Wipes

Terms to Know:

- Bud Eye – lies just above where a leaf is or was attached to the cane
- Bud Union – the area between the roots and the stems where the bud of the desired variety was grafted onto the rootstock
- Cane – the main branches of the rose bush

- Deadheading – removing spent blossoms, this should be done spring through fall to keep the roses blooming (cut back to the first set of 5 leaves)
- Heading Cut – removing a portion of a shoot or branch, leaving only buds or tiny twigs, results in an increased number of branches
- Sucker – vigorous upright shoot that arises below the bud union from the rootstock or roots
- Thinning Cut – removing branches at their point of origin, results in a reduced number of branches

Hybrid Teas:

- Hybrid Teas have long, sturdy stems and large flowers (these are best for cutting)
- Stand back and assess the condition of the plant (focus on the lower portion of the rose)
- Start by removing all dead, diseased, damaged and crossing canes
- Open up the center for air circulation and sunlight by removing interior and crossing canes
- Cut back remaining canes to an “outward” facing bud at an angle about 1/4” from the “bud eye”.

Floribundas:

- Floribundas produce cluster of blooms with compact growth
- These can be sheared or cut back individual canes to an “outward” facing bud leaving more canes than you would a hybrid tea
- Floribundas will have smaller canes

Grandifloras:

- Grandiflora roses are a cross between hybrid teas and floribundas. They have multiple blooms per stem with large flowers.
- Prune as you would a hybrid tea

Shrub Roses:

- Shrub roses have a bushy growth habit
- They are disease resistant and bloom all season long
- Shrub roses may be hedged or left unpruned
- Removal of older canes every two to three years will renew vigor
- Cut back hard every five years to get rid of dead wood

David Austin Roses:

- Most David Austin roses can be pruned as a shrub or floribunda roses, however, do not cut back as hard as a Hybrid Tea
- For David Austin’s grown as climbers, prune as you would climbers

Carpet Roses:

- Carpet roses are also known as groundcover roses
- Long blooming, easy care roses that can be sheared annually

- Cut back hard every five years to get rid of dead wood

Climbing Roses:

- Remove dead, diseased and damaged canes
 - Remove old canes if needed
 - Main canes come from the bottom of the plant
 - Lateral canes come from the main canes and produce the flowers, cut them back to two or three buds
 - Prune toward an “inward” bud (toward the support)
- NOTE: Cecile Brunner and Lady Banks roses usually bloom once in spring, prune these climbers after they bloom**

Pest and Diseases:

- Good sanitation efforts such as removing all leaves from plants after pruning and picking up fallen leaves on the ground can contribute to reducing diseases in spring.
- Dispose all cuttings and leaves into your green waste bin
- In our mild winter climate, the leaves tend to stay on so you will need to remove after pruning
- Organic options, Copper Fungicide to help control diseases and Neem Oil to help control overwintering insects
- Aphids – rub off, hose off, use aphid traps and beneficial insects, Insecticidal Soap or Neem Oil
- Beetles – Hand pick, water traps, use Captain Jack’s Deadbug or Neem Oil
- Spider Mites – Hose off undersides of foliage often, use Neem Oil, Captain Jack’s Deadbug or Insecticidal Soap
- Thrips – Hose off undersides of foliage often, use Captain Jack’s Deadbug, Insecticidal Soap or Neem Oil
- Powdery Mildew, Rust and Blackspot – remove and dispose of affected leaves; prune to increase air circulation, use Copper Fungicide or Neem Oil
- For more information regarding pest and diseases visit www.ipm.ucanr.edu

Fertilizing:

- Start fertilizing in March when the leaves emerge from dormancy. I use EB Stone’s Organic Rose and Flower Food every 6 to 8 weeks through September
- Adding 2 cups of alfalfa pellets in February to each rose bush to help produce new canes