

Cutting Principles

Always maintain sharp cutting tools. Use pruning shears of the scissors type as they make the cleanest cuts. Anvil pruners work well for removing dead wood but tend to smash one side of newer, tender green stems.



Scissors

Anvil

A proper cut slants at about a 45-degree angle away from the bud (growth) eye.



Cuts should be 1/4 inches above the growth eye and below diseased wood.



Too Far

Too Close

Correct

CONSULTING ROSARIANS

of the

Arlington Rose Foundation

Consulting Rosarians (CRs) are certified by **THE AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY** after successfully demonstrating expert knowledge on rose culture. A select few rosarians who have been CRs for at least 10 years and provided outstanding service to others, have been elevated to the status of Master Consulting Rosarian (M). All are available free of charge to assist and advise on rose culture and problems, help anyone start new rose gardens and in every way share their knowledge with others. You may feel free to call upon them with questions or for assistance.

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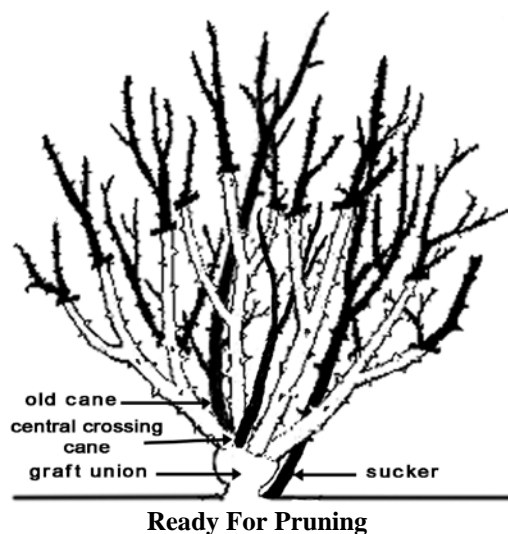
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Pruning Tips

Proper pruning is essential to the health of roses as it encourages new growth and results in better blossoms. Dormant pruning is performed on all repeat blooming roses in the spring, about the time forsythias bloom. Once blooming roses should be pruned immediately after their spring bloom cycle. Ready for pruning, the dormant bush is leafless or nearly so.

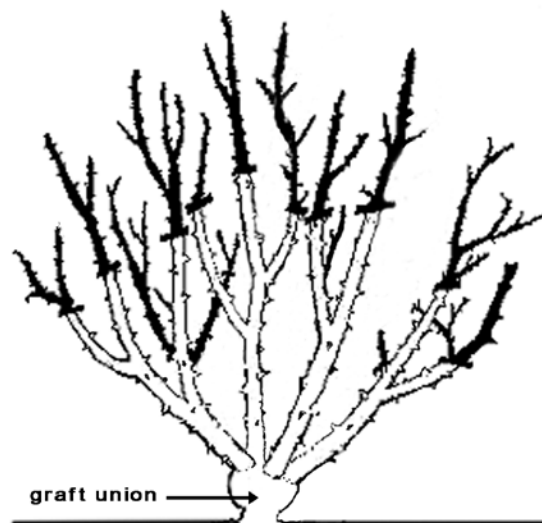


Step 1: Always prune from the ground up. Remove dead, damaged, diseased and old canes that produced no strong growth, suckers growing from the root stock rather than above the graft, and central crossing canes. These actions leave healthy wood and open up the center of the bush to improve air circulation. Bud union cuts should be flush.



Bud Union Cuts Should be Flush

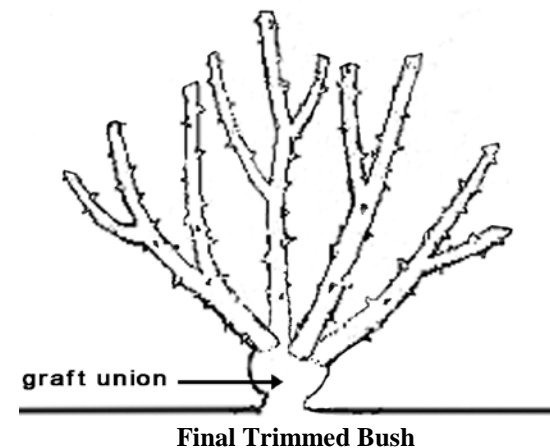
After step 1 you should have at least 3 or 4 vigorous canes on young bushes and perhaps 6 to 8 canes on older bushes.



Step 2: Remove about one-third of the outer ends of the remaining healthy canes. Cut at least one inch below any damaged areas and one-quarter inch above an outward facing bud. Choose buds that face in directions you want the new growth to go. This will allow you to shape the plant and will result in new growth away from the center of the plant, improving air circulation and reducing disease. Remove all spindly shoots less than the diameter of a pencil. If two branches rub or are close enough that they will soon, remove one.

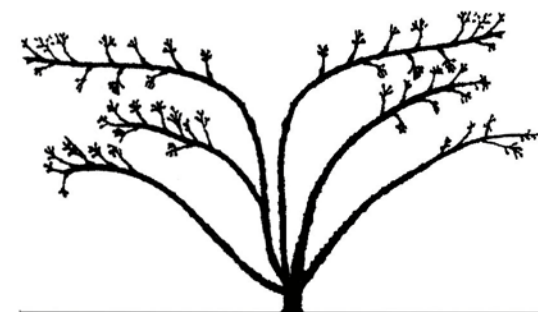
Use a wire brush to scrub off the woody material on the graft union, taking care to avoid brushing off any new growth. Seal all cuts larger than a pencil with Elmer's glue to discourage wood bores. Strip off any remaining leaves and clean up all leaves and debris from the ground. Spray the bush and ground under the bush with a contact fungicide such as Mancozeb or Maneb.

With the mild climate in the Washington, D.C. region, healthy growth should not be reduced by more than one-third. This is considered moderate to light pruning. Floribundas should be pruned slightly less than one-third and miniatures and mini-floras slightly more. Heavier pruning will yield fewer but larger flowers and lighter pruning will yield more but smaller flowers.



This process should be used on all hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora, and shrub roses that repeat bloom through the year.

For climbing roses Step 1 is the same as described above, namely to remove dead, damaged and diseased canes, keeping several of the healthiest long stems. It is recommended these remaining stems be trained horizontally, as horizontal canes mean more buds. The uppermost bud on a branch secretes hormones to repress the growth of those below. If a cane is horizontal, no bud has dominance, so all the buds grow and bloom. Simply trim the laterals (the small canes off the main stems) leaving 2 to 4 bud eyes on each lateral.



Climbers Trimmed Differently

Throughout the growing season trimming spent blossoms down to a five leaf leaflet will encourage more blooms.