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 remove 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 in 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 bright 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-leaflet. 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