

### **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

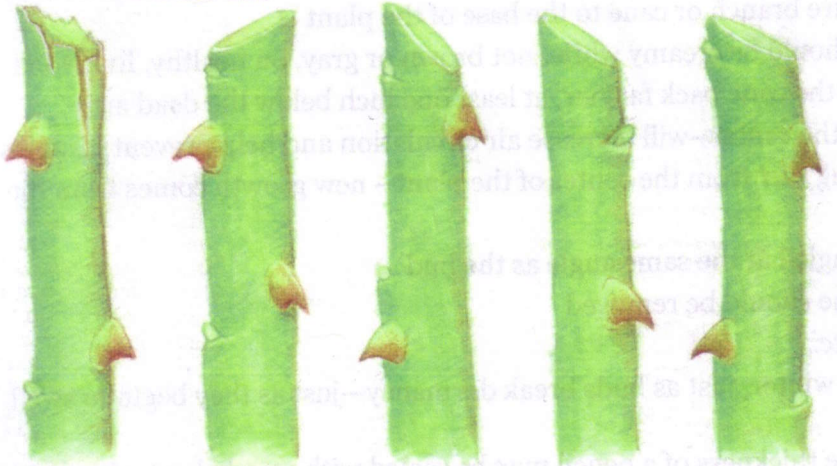
**Old Garden (Antique) Roses** (make cuts as in illustration, but do not prune entire plant as in illustration)

- \*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-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

**MAKING THE RIGHT CUT**



**A:** Damaged cut caused by blunt blades on old pruners  
**B:** Cut made at wrong angle  
**C:** Angle too steep  
**D:** Cut made too far above the bud eye  
**E:** The proper cut for a rose cane



**WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MAKE THE CORRECT CUT**



When the cut is made correctly—here, above an aging five-leaflet set with a dormant bud eye below—the water will rise from the rose cane and run

down its opposite side. Remove the old leaf set just below the cut. Within a few weeks the dormant bud eye will begin to swell. In another three weeks

the swelling will result in a young new stem showing just a few foliage sets. Eventually that growth will become a stem and bloom.

