

Pruning roses does not have to be a daunting task. When roses are healthy, they are resilient.

Reasons to Prune Roses

- Make the shrub more vigorous
- Promote profuse blooming
- Discourage diseases
- Shape shrub as needed

Proper Tools

- Pruning shears, preferably a sharp bypass pruner
- Gloves
- Wax-based pruning sealer or white glue; do not use asphalt sealer

Pruning Techniques

- Dormant pruning is conducted in the early spring, usually in April.
- Summer pruning is conducted when the rose is actively growing.

Pruning Process

- All pruning cuts should be made about 1/4 inch above an outward facing bud.
- Make the cut on a slant away from the bud rather than straight across.
- Seal each cut on the cane with a pruning sealer.

Tips for Dormant Pruning

Hybrid Roses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Once roses are uncovered in the spring, remove all dead or damaged canes. 2. Remove all canes thinner than a pencil. 3. Remove any canes that crowd the center of the rose.
Hardy Roses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Depending on the severity of the winter, prune all dead or damaged canes. 2. Older, less productive canes growing in the heart of the bush can be completely removed. 3. Cut the remaining canes back by about 1/3 their length. 4. Many hardy roses are grown on their own roots and those will come back even if killed to the ground.
Climbing Roses	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Only remove damaged wood from the healthy canes. 2. Remove older, less productive canes at their base.

Tips for Summer Pruning

Hybrid Roses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the spent flowers to encourage the plant. • Count down 3 or more leaf sets from the bloom and prune just above the leaf set; prune through mid-August. • Cut any suckers that are growing below the graft flush to the root. • Discontinue summer pruning mid-August.
Hardy Roses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the spent flowers to encourage the plant. • Count down 2 or more leaf sets from the bloom and prune just above the leaf set; prune through mid-August. • Discontinue summer pruning mid-August.
Climbing Roses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removing the spent flowers will encourage the plant. • After their first bloom (if they are repeat bloomers) cut all side branches (laterals) back to 2 or 3 buds. • Discontinue summer pruning mid-August.