

Rose Pruning

Hybrid Tea Floribunda Grandiflora

The best time to heavily prune your roses is in December or January. To begin doing so, look the plant over carefully. Study the branch formation.

- * Remove all sucker growth. These are shoots growing from below the bud union
- * Cut out all dead canes and branches with a sharp pruning shear
- * Remove oldest, woody canes
- * Remove branches that cross, leaving the straightest and strongest
- * Leave the newest most vigorous canes, usually between three and five canes
- * Prune the remaining (three to five) canes to just above the growth “eye” which faces out, away from the center of the plant
- * Pruned canes should be about 12” to 18” long, 10” to 12” on floribundas
- * Remove all small twigs and remaining unwanted material
- * Spray the plants with “dormant spray” at 10 day intervals, usually three sprayings.

This will eliminate any insects and fungus spores that may be left on or near the plant. It is a good idea to spray the soil too.

Roses are very hardy and can overcome extreme adversities. Even if you end up with one or two canes, the plant may still look good in a few months. This is not necessarily the time to give up on that plant, unless it is one you just do not particularly care about. In that case, this is the best time to select a new bare root plant to replace it.

Start feeding the roses about the first of February. We use Gro Power monthly; however, there are many other good rose fertilizers. If you opt to use a liquid fertilizer, you should feed every two weeks. Dry fertilizers may be used about six weeks apart. Read the label for best results.

As the roses grow, you may have problems with aphids, a small insect that attacks new growth and flower buds. Wash them off or use one of several sprays recommended to control them. Rust and mildew are fungus that commonly attack leaves. There are a number of good fungicides on the market. Ask your nursery professional for the best one to suit your needs.