

Pruning Your Roses

Prune between late June and mid-August, don't be tempted to start early as the roses will actually start growing again and then the new growth will get hit by the frosts, plus they won't flower earlier if pruned earlier.

Why do roses need to be pruned? It helps keep them to a manageable size in our gardens. It also allows old, dead and diseased growth to be removed and encourages the plant to produce more growth and, hence, more flowers for you to enjoy. Pruning also helps to shape the plant and open up the centre, allowing for more light and ventilation, which helps to minimise disease.

What to remove:

Reduce the rose bush in size by about half is what you are aiming for, but if this doesn't suit your needs you may wish to only take a third off.

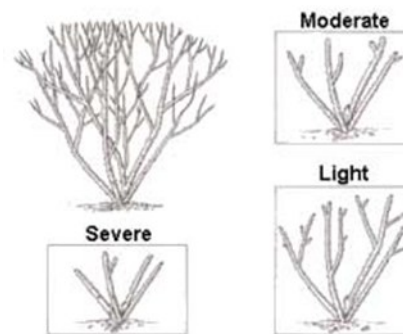
The first thing to do when pruning is to cut off all the dead and damaged limbs of the plant. Take them right back to the base of the plant. Take off any branches that are crossing over, we want to redirect our growth. Take off any smaller branches, anything smaller than a pencil. After this you should be left with thicker, stronger branches. When you prune these main branches, look for outwardly facing buds. If there is no bud, there should be a small bump or leaf scar line.

The reason to look for an outwardly facing bud and not an inward facing one is that we want the new growth to grow in an outward direction, and not start causing crossovers again. Cut about 10mm above the bud and make the cut on a 45 degree angle, this just helps with water run-off if it rains. The reason for this is to prevent water pooling or collecting on the stem which can cause diseases.

Try and make your cuts as clean as possible as this will prevent any dieback from occurring. The rose bush should be looking open and shaped at this point. Once the Spring growth bursts you will have a beautifully shaped plant with plenty of flowers to come.

Standard Roses:

The same rules apply to standard roses as bush roses. You can prune harder with a standard rose, leaving each branch about 15-20 cm long. Take off anything dead or dying. Remove any of the small and spindly growth. Prune the main branches so the standard head forms a vase shaped with at least four strong leaders with outwardly facing buds. Leave the inside of the crown nice and open.



Beautiful Roses

Rose Care Guide

Roses at Cust

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Spraying and Feeding Roses

Winter Spray

Winter spray will ensure that our roses enter spring free of diseases.

In winter the eggs of insect pests and the spores of diseases over-winter in the buds and in crevices on the stems of roses. This winter spray programme kills these pests and diseases so that in spring when buds open the rose is 'clean' and less likely to be attacked.

Immediately after pruning apply a winter clean-up spray, Lime Sulphur.

One week after the Lime Sulphur application spray roses with Free Flo Copper and Enspray99

Mix order:
1st Free Flo Copper, 2nd Enspray99.

Notes:

Lime Sulphur and oil must never be mixed or sprayed together.

Oil and Copper Oxychloride can be mixed together and is often done as the oil helps the copper to stick to the roses.

Never mix Liquid copper and oil together. Copper washes off easily and may need to be reapplied after rain.

Copper helps protect new growth from frosts that occur in late spring.

Liquid copper adheres to the leaves better than powdered copper & won't shrink away from the edge as it dries, thereby ensuring better protection.

Summer Spray

There are two basic methods of spraying roses throughout the growing season.

Preventative Spraying:

Spray regularly (every two weeks or so) to prevent disease from taking hold. This is highly effective resulting in very clean, glossy, healthy looking roses. Use a combination fungicide / pesticide to control a wide range of diseases and pests, we stock Combat which is a pesticide, fungicide and fertiliser combination. This method is the most effective way to keep roses looking good all season long. Although it is more time consuming and costly, most keen gardeners prefer this method over the second.

Targeted Spraying:

Spray your roses when they are attacked by a particular pest or disease. This way you can spray the most effective spray for the disease your rose has. When your roses are clean, don't spray at all. You may be surprised by how long your roses go without showing up any disease or pests (or not). The old adage, prevention is better than cure applies here though, so be prepared to spray 2 or 3 times to eradicate stubborn diseases. This method is more for the casual gardener who doesn't mind the odd bug on their plants. You also run the risk of disease taking hold. This means the disease is stronger than the spray you are putting on it, resulting in sick looking roses, even dead roses.

Feeding your Roses

Here are our recommendations for feeding, use this as a guide only, all gardens are different and require different nutrients.

Good Quality Rose Fertiliser:

Apply about 3 applications from early Spring to late summer (September to March).

This is a complete food containing everything the rose needs. Spread it around the drip line (not against the stem) as the drip line is where the feeding roots are.

Blood & Bone:

Blood and bone gives an immediate burst of nutrients but should only be used once or twice a year in winter.

Dolomite lime:

Apply over your rose garden once every 2 or 3 years to keep acidity down. This is not needed in some gardens. Use a soil PH meter to determine this."A soil ph of between 6 and 6.5 is ideal.

Warning: fresh manure is a no no.