

Spring Rose Care and Planting



WSU EXTENSION
Cowlitz County



Spring Rose Care

Pruning

No pruning was done to any of the roses shown in this representation because of below freezing temperatures.

Pruning Tools

Don't use “anvil” pruners-they crush the stems



Do use “bypass” pruners-they cut cleanly like scissors



Loppers

Loppers will be a necessity as your roses get older.

I have two pair--one is 1 ½ inch and the other is 1 ¾ inch. They are both long handled and light weight. I prefer metal handles to wood.

You also need a file for sharpening. You can pick one up at your local hardware store. I sharpen mine loppers several times while I am pruning. You do not want to damage the rose canes with dull loppers or pruners.



Pruning Saws

As your roses grow, you will need a pruning saw to use on older, thicker canes.

This saw can also be used on other shrubs, also, not just roses.

When these get dull, I buy a new one--never learned how to sharpen saws.



Pruning Groves

Leather roses are very important when working with roses. I use both regular leather and goatskin gloves. Goatskin gloves are the only ones I use when working with moss roses, because their thorns are so different and fine that they can penetrate regular leather gloves. I learned that one the hard way.



https://www.jacksonandperkins.com/images/xxl/v1871_1.jpg



https://womanswork.com/pub/media/catalog/product/cache/f5a972551f1f20bceb45ac7d6b65534f/g/o/goatskin_rev2.jpg

Pruning Guidelines

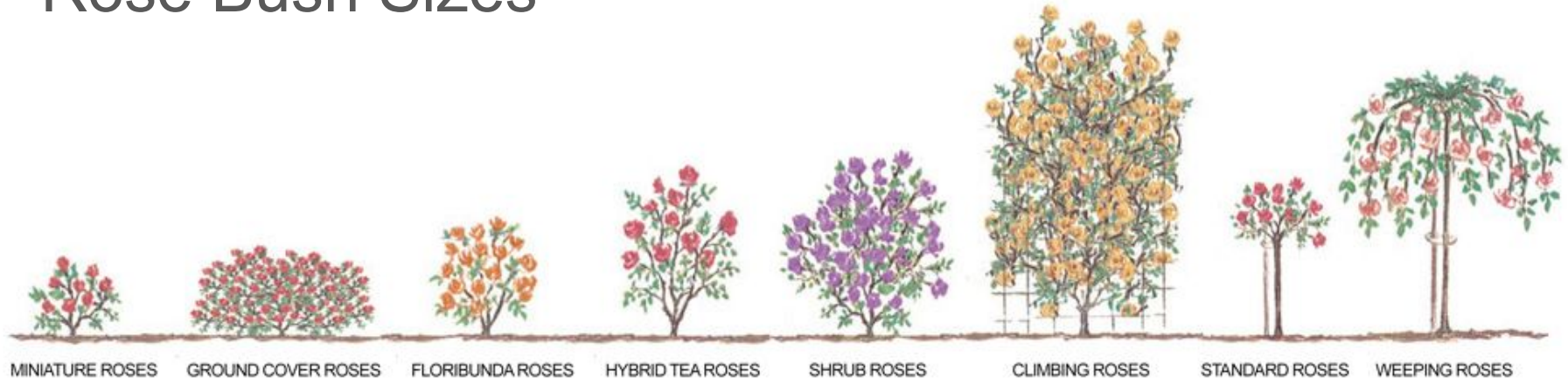
This is the correct way to cut rose canes at 45 degree angle a $\frac{1}{4}$ above the bud.



<http://www.marinrose.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/pruningcuts-1.jpg>

Walk out and look at your rose bush or bushes. Look at the chart and see if you can locate what looks most similar to your bush or bushes. Everything but the Climbers, Tree Roses and Weeping Tree roses will be pruning similar.

Rose Bush Sizes



Miniatures and Small Shrubs

We are going to start with large miniatures and small Shrubs.

1. Cut off the top of this plant to 24 inches. Angle cuts are not necessary yet.
2. Now you can easily get into the bush to remove all small and dead canes.
3. Remove all canes that are crossing or rubbing each other.
4. Remove any large old canes with bark on them that look out of place.
5. Now you're ready to finish up
 - a. Look for a outward facing bud node and cut at a 45 degree angle about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the bud around 18 inches.
 - b. If there are no outside buds any bud at the around the 18 inch level.



Photo by Michele Thomas of Candy Oh



Photo by Michele Thomas of Candy Oh

Floribunda Roses

Floribundas are different than shrubs and are pruned similar to hybrid Teas.

1. Prune this bush down to two-and-a-half feet; no 45 degree cuts yet.
2. Remove all dead canes from the plant, cutting to the ground, or back to live cane.
3. All very small canes will be cut back to a larger cane.
4. Cut the remaining canes to 24 inches, looking first for outside facing bud nodes. If there is not one at that height, select the closest node to the 24 inch height. All of these cuts will be at a 45 degree angle about one quarter inch above the node.



Photo by Michele Thomas of Iceberg

Hybrid Tea Roses

For the Hybrid Tea rose, I choose Peace, one of the most popular Hybrid Tea roses. Also one that is still found in ground since it was introduced in 1945. We are going to be pruning an old Hybrid Tea Rose.

1. Prune the rose down to two and a-half feet. This plant may require a saw to cut the older canes down.
2. Remove thin canes and any dead canes back to a larger cane or to the base of the rose.
3. Make 45 degree cuts to all the canes that are left. If you have canes that need to be cut with a saw, 1 ½ inches or more, I personally cut them about ½ inch above a bud node so I don't damage the node.



Photo by Michele Thomas of Peace

Large Shrubs Roses

This large shrub is pruned with hedge pruners, a saw, and large loppers. Spring bloom on this plant is so heavy that it pulls the ten to twelve-foot canes over. If watered in the summer, it is a continual bloomer. In mild winters, it will bloom all winter. In the fall, I prune this rose with hedge pruners to within five feet of the house. In the spring this rose is cut to 4 feet with large loppers and saw.



Photo by Michele Thomas of Captain Karl S. a 1930's Germany shrub

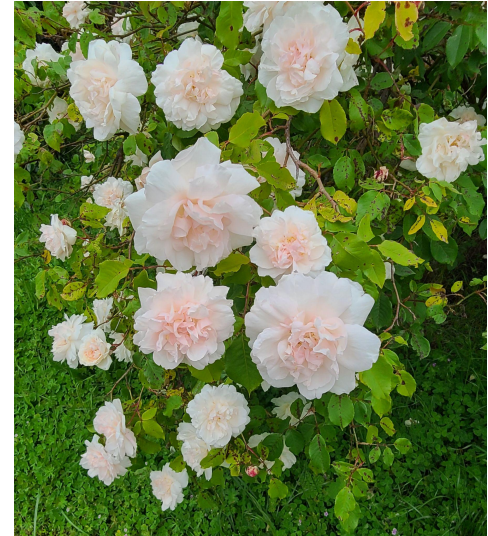


Photo by Michele Thomas of Captain Karl S. blooms

Young Roses on Their Own Roots

Pictures of my roses. They are all young plants on their own roots. Some are cuttings I have grown and some are from Heirloom Roses. All but one are shrubs--the one that isn't a shrub is a small climber. All of these roses will be tipped-pruned and lightly shaped only, until they get bigger. The cuttings will also be up-potted this year.



Photo taken by Michele Thomas

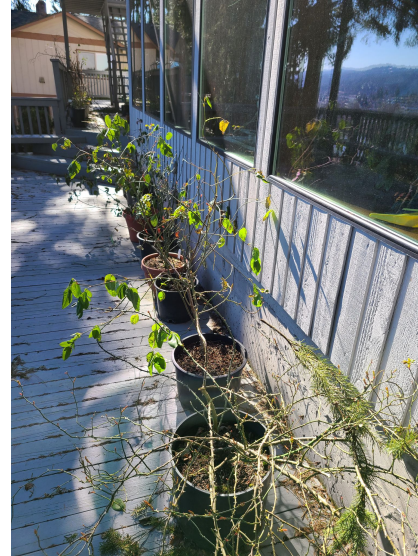


Photo taken by Michele Thomas

Pruning and downsizing an Old Garden Rose

This moss rose is a little over three feet tall, so it will be pruned to around 24 inches and all dead canes removed. Because this moss rose is growing on its own roots, it will also need to be downsized.

This rose will be dug up in sections, potted, and given away to new homes. This rose has mosaic virus so it will not be sold. The virus is in the plant but it will stay within that plant and will not contaminate any other roses. New studies show that this virus is not spread by aphids like original though.



Photo taken by Michele Thomas of Gloire des Mousseux



Photo taken by Michele Thomas of Gloire des Mousseux

Mosaic Virus

Pictures of mosaic virus leaves. The rose bush may display mosaic virus symptoms, either across the entire plant or only on one or two leaves.

The above rose is allowed to remain in the garden because, unlike some other plants, it currently only has occasional leaves that exhibit signs of the virus.

I personally remove them from my garden when they begin to show a lot of infected leaves. This rose will be added to my garden in Portland, as I grow and show moss roses.



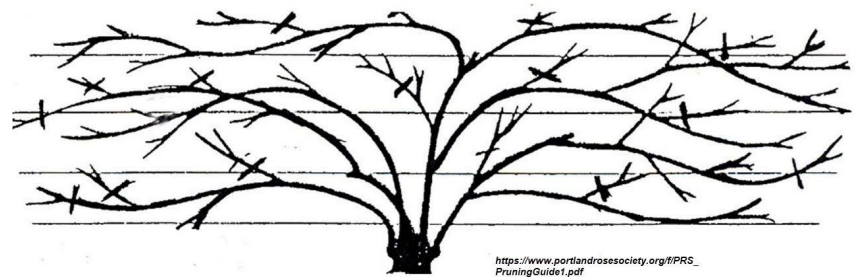
Climbers

Climbers are done entirely differently from other roses. They are a work in progress, because they require constant watching. New canes need to be tied to the trellis and encouraged to grow sideways, not up, because they bloom more on sideways shoots.

When pruning a trellis rose in the spring, cut all the bloom shoots to the second bud node, which encourages them to bloom more on the sideways stems. Climbers are very hardy and do not have much dieback to remove.

If you need to clean up an old climber that hasn't been taken care of in years, it is best to cut it down, clean the trellis and start over. It will not hurt a healthy climber.

Climbers



https://www.portlandrosesociety.org/f/PRS_PruningGuide1.pdf

Tree Roses and Weeping Roses

These types of roses have been created by people! They have selected for desired traits and then propagated retain those traits. Both are double grafted. Tree Roses are grafted hybrid teas, grandifloras, and floribundas.

Weeping Roses are grafted small blooming climbers. They maybe one time bloomers.

Both varieties need to be staked.

These roses need a lot more care. They need to be dead-headed as needed, and weeping roses need to tip-pruned all summer.

All thin canes need to be pruned out, and both varieties need to be carefully shaped when doing spring pruning. Tree roses are cut back to three or four inches from the top grafe. Cut back Weeping Roses by one-third after lightly thinning and the dead canes are removed. Remove all suckers from the stock and base of both roses types..



<https://www.thetutuguru.com.au/garden-info/plant-factsheets/roses/>

<https://www.davidaustinroses.com/products/olivia-rose-austin-tree-rose>



<https://www.wikihow.com/Prune-Tree-Roses#/Image:Prune-Tree-Roses-Step-16-Version-2.jpg>

Pruning Summary

1. Walk out and look at your rose bush or bushes.
2. Take your bush or bushes down to two and half feet except climbers.
3. Remove all the dead branches from the rose or roses.
4. Remove small canes--anything the size of a pencil or smaller--back to a larger cane or to the ground.
5. Remove all canes that are crossing or rubbing against another cane. For canes that are rubbing, remove the one with the most damage to the bark. If both are damaged remove both.
6. Step Six is IMPORTANT except for climbers and tree and weeping roses.
Roses that are under 10 years of age need to be pruned differently than roses over ten years old.
 - 1 to ten years old: prune 18 inches high, remove all older canes. Newer roses will shoot new cane from the base of the rose.
 - 11 years and older: prune 24 inches high, do not remove the old canes unless dead. They will grow new shoots off of the old cane, but not as many new canes from the base of the rose.

Clean Up

Now that the roses are pruned and the big job is done, it is time to clean up.

Remove all the cut rose canes.

Remove/rake all the old rose leaves from around the plant or plants. Cut all the leaves left on the bush off with clippers--do not pull them off as you can damage the outside layer of bark on the rose. This allows disease and bugs in.

Also check to make sure the plant is firmly in the ground. Winter winds and freezing ice can loosen a plant in the soil. To correct it, step firmly on the soil around the base of the plant to pack the soil back around the roots, so that drying air can not get in.

Composting and Fertilizing

I do both of these jobs in April weather permitting.

I recommend putting one to two inches of compost or bark dust down on your rose beds each year.

Fertilizing - I fertilize around April 15th - Tax Day. Easy to remember.

For in-ground roses, I use a 15-10-10 with micro nutrients which I get from the Portland Rose Society. However, you can use any fertilizer that is made for roses, or if all you have is 16-16-16, that will work, too. *Roses are fertilized April 15, end of June, and lightly end of August.*

For container roses, I use organic rose fertilizer. Less chemical salts build up in the containers with organic fertilizer. *Containers also need to be fertilized about every six weeks as you are slowly washing the fertilizer out of the containers.*

Spring Bugs

1. **Cut worms**

These worms like the new buds and leaves of roses. In one week, a couple of these can defoliate a whole rose.



https://extension.umn.edu/sites/extension.umn.edu/files/styles/caption_small/public/variegated-cutworm.jpg?tok=BKmFibv1

2. **Aphids**

Show up very early in the spring when new shoots start coming out even in the cold.



<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/M/I-HO-MROS-CO.005.html>

Spring Rose Diseases

1. **Black Spot**

Black spot is a fungus that shows up every spring because of the rains in the Pacific Northwest.



<https://gardenerpath.com/how-to/disease-and-pests/common-rose-diseases/#Black-Spot>

2. **Botrytis Blight**

Is another wet spring fungus that can show up in the flowers and can also spread to the canes.



<https://gardenerpath.com/how-to/disease-and-pests/common-rose-diseases/#Botrytis-Blight>

Spring Rose Diseases con't.

3. Crown Gall

Crown gall is something to look for all year when you're pruning.

Crown gall is caused by a soilborne bacterium which infects tissue through wounds on the crown and roots. Crown Gall is deadly and highly contagious. When you find this on a rose, it has to be removed and put in the garbage, not the compost pile.

Your pruning tools also have to be soaked in alcohol for fifteen minutes. Shovels need to be cleaned and sprayed with alcohol several times to the bacterium.

This soilborne bacteria is found in the soils in Longview area.



Galls occur near soil line as well as near pruning cuts as in this image. Jay W. Pscheidt, 2013.

Spring Rose Planting

Soil Drainage Perk Test

- Dig a hole



- Around 18 X 18 inches



- Fill with water let it set overnight



- Refill and measure, then check every hour to see how fast the water drains.



Selecting Your Rose

Types of roses bushes for sale

- **Bare root**
 - Grafted or on their own roots
 - Grade
- **Boxed**
 - Grafted or on their own roots
 - Grade
- **Potted**
 - Grafted or on their own roots

Look for the bloom picture on Bare Root and Boxed and the Name on Potted since potted may or may not be in bloom.



Photos by Michele Thomas

Look up the rose your thinking of purchasing

- Read the description for the rose.
- What is the height and width of the rose at maturity?
- Is the plant upright or does it have arching canes?
- What zones it will grow best in?
- Check for any information on disease resistance.
- Is it fragrant?
- Is there a label on the plant that tells you if it is grafted or not?

Bare-root Rose

Unwrap your rose

Put in a pail of water overnight.

Dig a 18 inch by 18 inch hole, then mound soil in the center. Set and spread the rose roots around the mound of soil.

Place amended soil around roots until you have the hole filled to the bud union. Press down soil firmly until compacted, then water in.

If it is a cold, early spring, cover the top of 8 inches of the plant with bark dust or compost.



<https://gardenerspath.com/plants/flowers/grow-bare-root-roses/>

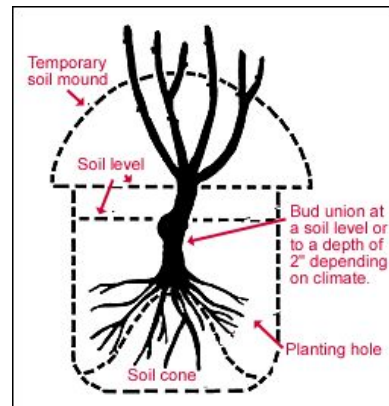
Boxed Rose

Remove from the box

Dig a 18 inch by 18 inch hole, then mound soil in the center. Set and spread the rose roots around the mound of soil.

Place amended soil around roots until you have the hole filled to bud union. Press down soil until compacted, then water in.

If it a cold early spring cover the top of 8 inches of the plant with bark dust or compost.

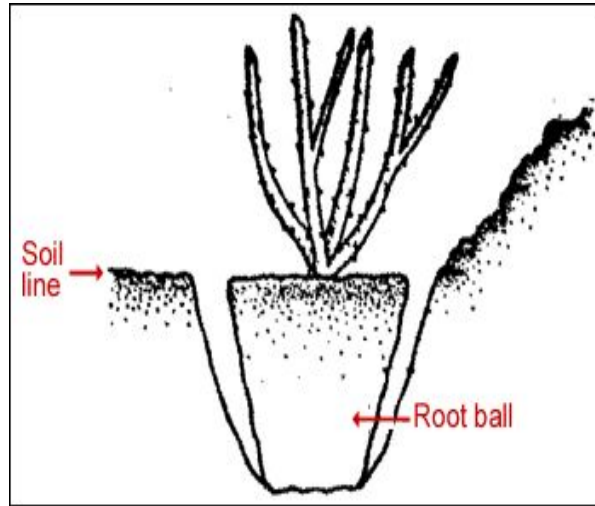


<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/roses/planting.cfm>

Potted Rose

Dig hole a little larger than the potted rose de-pot and set in int the hole and fill around it with amended soil press down to compact soil and water in.

If still cold cover the top eight inches of the rose with compost or bark dust.



<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/roses/plantingh.cfm>

Then top dress the area around the rose with compost or bark dust to help hold in moisture and than lightly fertilize.

References

Rose Care Calendar

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/growing-roses-in-washington--rose-care-calendar-home-garden-series>

Roses-Common Disease and Insect Problems

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/growing-roses-in-washington-state-common-disease-and-insect-problems-home-garden-series>

Planting Roses

<https://pubs.extension.wsu.edu/growing-roses-in-washington-state-planting-roses>

Portland Rose Society-All About Roses

https://www.portlandrosesociety.org/all_about_roses.html

Rose Pests and Disease--WSU Hortsense

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=2&PlantDefId=33>

Cutworms:

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=13&ProblemId=6035>

Aphids:

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=2&PlantDefId=33&ProblemId=562>

Botrytis:

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=2&PlantDefId=33&ProblemId=547>

Black spot:

<http://hortsense.cahnrs.wsu.edu/Search/MainMenuWithFactSheet.aspx?CategoryId=1&SubCatId=2&PlantDefId=33&ProblemId=546>

Books

Northcoast Roses, by Rhonda Massingham Hart, published 1993

Selecting Roses, 2023 American Rose Society Handbook, published 2022