



# Basics of Rose Care

UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay  
February 2017



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Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program  
Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties

# Topics

- Summer and Winter pruning
- Water Mulch and Fertilizer
- Rose Disorders
  - Diseases
  - Pests

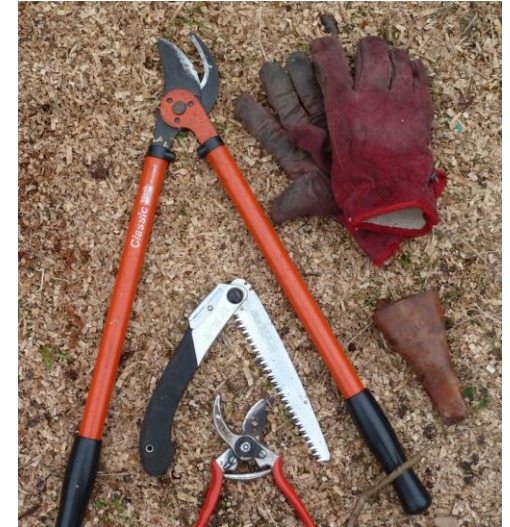


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# Getting Started

- **When to prune:**
  - In our area summer pruning is needed from spring to fall with winter pruning done in January, or February, before new growth begins in March.
- **Tools you need at hand:**
  - Gardening Gloves
  - Clippers/Shears
  - Heavy-duty loppers
  - Pruning saw



# Techniques to use for:

- Hybrid Teas
  - Most popular type in America, grow from 2 ½ to 6 ft, bloom through growing season, single flower on long strong stems, flowers are nearly always double



*Peace Rose*



# Techniques to use for:

- Floribundas
  - Up to 4 ft, flowers abundantly, bearing clusters of flowers (can be single or double) on single stem that resemble hybrid teas



*Julia Child*



# Techniques to use for:

- Grandifloras
  - Up to 6 ft, small clusters of large flowers are borne on long stems, normally flowers more than hybrid teas, but less than floribundas

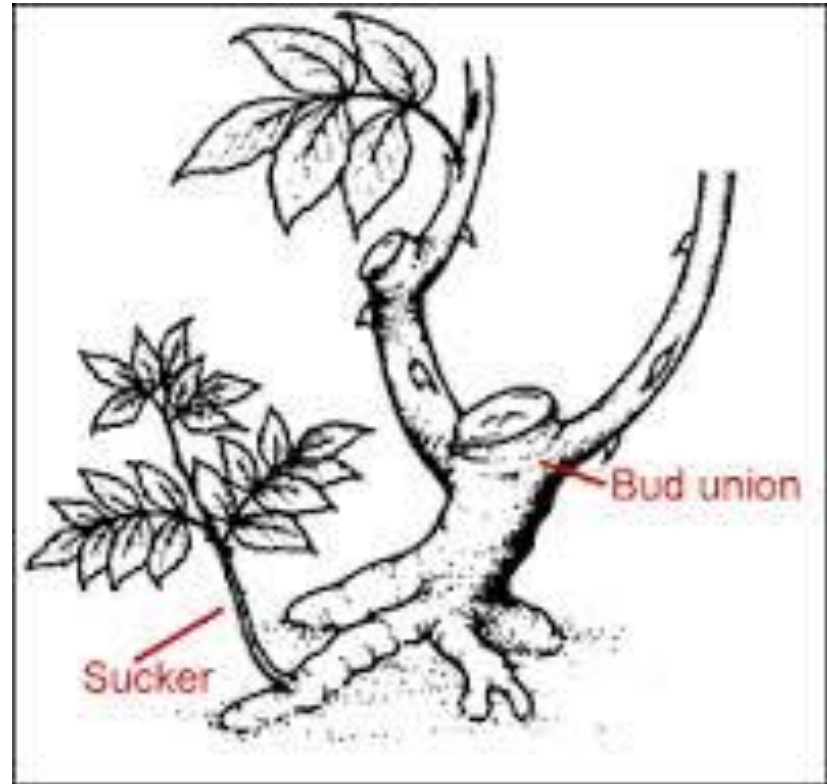


*Love Rose*



# Let's Prune

- Look for and remove all sucker growth.
  - Dig down to root of origin and remove it from where it emerges
  - Do not just cut them off at ground level, this encourages the growth of more suckers from that point.



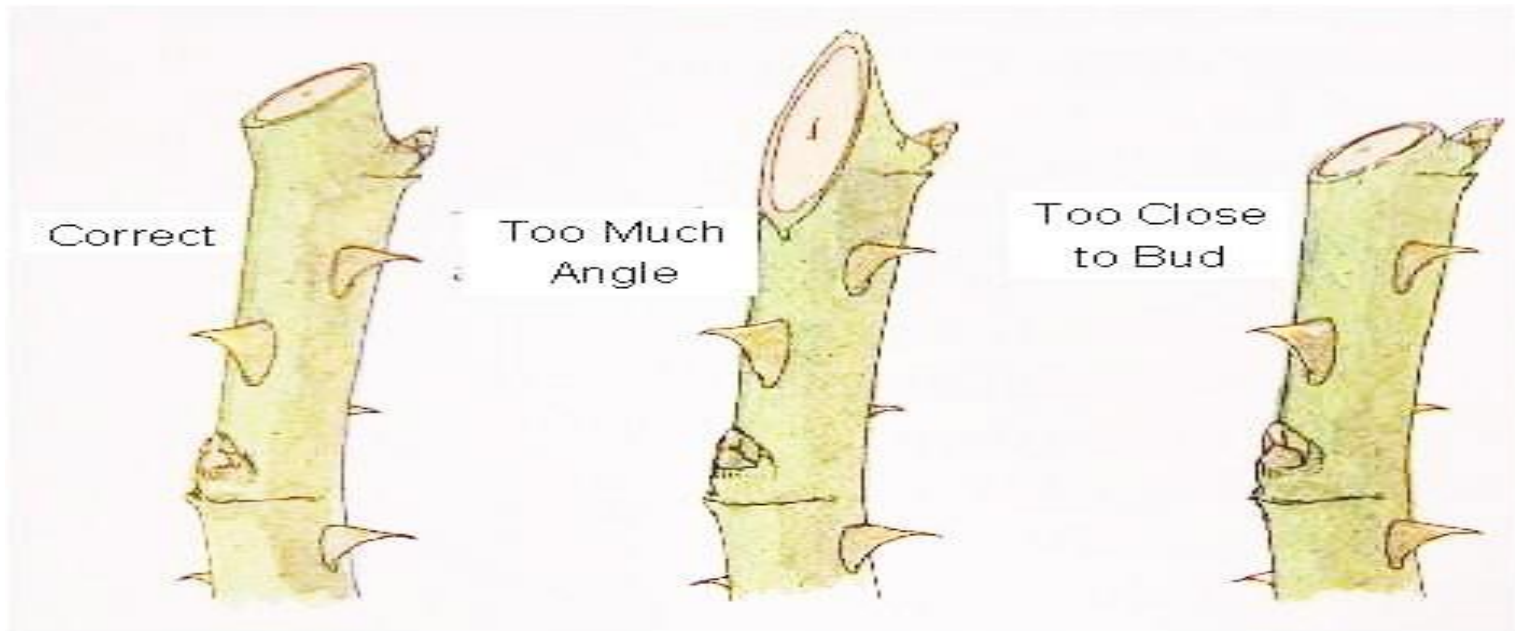
# Let's Prune

- Remove spent blooms, dead wood, broken or diseased canes
  - Cut dead and spent blooms from the plant at a 45-degree angle,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above where the stem of the flower meets a side branch with at least five leaves.
  - Dead wood is darker than healthy wood
  - Prune  $\frac{1}{4}$ " above an out-facing bud 2" – 3" below the damage





# Let's Prune



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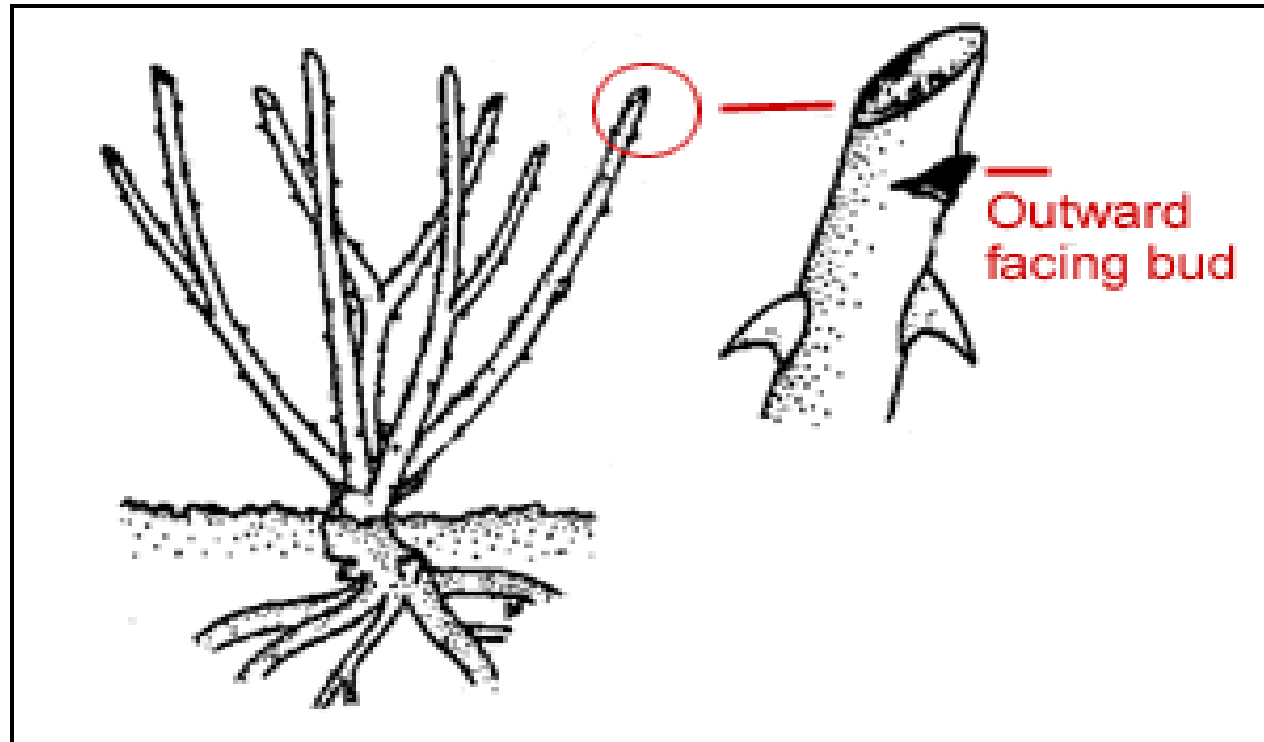
# Let's Prune

- Prune off weak or spindly canes, leaving stronger ones to grow.
  - Remove all canes that are smaller in diameter than a pencil
  - Weak twiggy canes will not support blooms, but will waste plant's energy.
- Prune canes that cross through the center of the plant or rub on other branches.
  - Helps strengthen remaining canes and preserve plant health
  - One of the goals is to produce an open centered plant
    - Allows good air flow and light to penetrate
    - Helps reduce disease



# Let's Prune

- Carefully prune the remaining canes to maintain a rounded form
  - Select height you desire
  - Prune all canes to encourage future growth



# Let's Prune

- If you have issues with cane borers in your area you can paint the cut ends with
  - Commercial cane sealer
  - White household glue
  - Clear nail polish
- Clean up, it is very important to clean up all debris from under and around your roses. This removes:
  - Fungus and insect problems left from last year
  - Generally rose debris is not a good source of composting material



# Ten Simple Principles

1. Plan Your Pruning From the Ground Up
2. If It's Too Old to Cut It, Cut It
3. If It's in the Way, Cut It Away
4. The Height is as Simple as 1-2-3
5. For All You Do, This Bud's For You

– *By Robert B. Martin of the American Rose Society*



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# Ten Simple Principles

6. When in Doubt, Cut It Out

7. If It isn't Big Enough to Seal, It Doesn't Belong There

8. Leave No Leaves

9. Don't Forget to Brush

10. Clean Up After Yourself

– *By Robert B. Martin of the American Rose Society*



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# Water

- Roses require water during the summer season
- A soaking of the soil from 8” to 12” once a week depending on weather and soil should be adequate
- Avoid wetting foliage during watering to avoid disease
  - Occasionally on a sunny morning I will spray the foliage from top and bottom on my roses to remove dust and unwanted insects



# Mulch

- Mulch is recommended to help retain moisture in the soil
  - Keeps soil cool
  - Retards weed growth
- Do not cover the crown with mulch
- Recommended materials
  - Wood chips
  - Straw
  - Dry grass clippings
- Be sure to apply additional fertilizer when organic mulch is applied





# Fertilizer

- A good fertilizer schedule will insure healthy roses and blooms all season.
- Start with a general purpose fertilizer (10-10-10) application in spring. Spread the recommended amount in a band starting 6” from the crown of the rose bush and spread out in a circle to about 18”. Work lightly into soil and water in.
- A second application in June and one in August in our area will keep the bushes blooming all season.



# Fertilizer

- A fall application (October/November) of fertilizer high in potassium helps to promote roots and winter hardiness.
- A word about Epsom salt
  - There is no published, scientific research on Epsom salt effects upon roses. The origin of these “research based” recommendations is unclear. Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott, PhD Associate Professor and Extension Urban Horticulturist



# Black Spot

Caused by the fungus  
*Diplocarpon rosae*  
Requires free water to  
reproduce and grow,  
so don't allow leaves  
to remain wet for  
more than 7 hours.



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# Powdery Mildew

Caused by the fungus  
*Podosphaera pannosa* var. *rosae*  
Powdery mildew doesn't  
require free water on plant  
surfaces in order to develop and  
is active during California's  
warm, dry summers.

Overhead sprinkling, such as  
irrigation or washing, during  
midday may limit the disease by  
disrupting the daily spore-  
release cycle yet allows time for  
foliage to dry before evening.



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# Rust

Caused by the fungus  
*Phragmidium*  
*mucronatum*

prefers cool, moist  
weather such as that  
found in coastal areas  
of California



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# Rose Mosaic

Caused by a number of virus's leaf symptoms will vary depending on which virus or viruses are present, the rose cultivar, the time of year, and growing conditions. Color break on flowers also can be symptomatic of rose mosaic disease.



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# Aphids

A variety of types. Favor young rapidly growing tissue. Cause honeydew on leaves which could result in sooty mold if not controlled.

Natural enemies are Ladybugs and syrphid flies. Ants protect aphids for their honeydew and must be controlled.

Can be sprayed off in morning with water for control.



# Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Site

Resource page for roses

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/rose.html>

Or, navigate from the IPM home page

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/index.html>

- > Home, garden, turf and landscape pests
- > Trees and shrubs (including roses and other ornamentals)
- > Rose

*Select on right >*

- Invertebrates
- Disease
- Environmental Disorders



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# References:

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- <http://extension.missouri.edu/p/G6601>
- <http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-128.pdf>
- <http://www.ars.org/about-roses/rose-care-articles/ten-principles-of-rose-pruning/>
- <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>

