



## TYPES OF MODERN ROSES

### 1. Polyantha Rose

Introduced in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Plants are vigorous, many caned, & usually low growing to 3' tall. Small flowers (under 2") in large sprays provide mass of color. Almost everblooming. Plant about 2' apart. Five common varieties are Margo Koster, The Fairy, China Doll, Cecile Brunner and Perle d'Or.

### 2. Hybrid Tea Rose

Most popular class of rose grown today; outsells all other types combined. Thousands of varieties produced since 1867 introduction. Long blooming season. 3-7' tall plants that should be planted 2-3' apart. Large flowers (3 ½ -5 ½ ") produced one to a stem and accented by handsome foliage. Popular varieties today include Mr. Lincoln, Peace, Touch of Class, Brandy, Double Delight, and 100s of others.

### 3. Floribunda Rose

Cross between a polyantha and hybrid tea. Relatively short, plants are 2-3' tall. Several floribundas planted 2' apart make a good hedge. 2 ½ -3 ½ " flowers are borne in large clusters. Similar bloom shape to hybrid tea or somewhat flatter. Clusters are abundant and provide mass of color. More color selections of floribunda are available than for polyanthas. Selections include Iceberg, Angel Face, Showbiz, Sun Flare, and Intrigue.

### 4. Grandiflora Rose

Should be a cross between hybrid tea and floribunda, but sometimes extra vigorous hybrid teas are sold. Plants often grow 8-10' tall, so plant 6' apart and use as a background or barrier plant. Long blooming season with large clusters of 2 ½ -3 ½ " flowers or single blooms if a hybrid tea. Queen Elizabeth, Tournament of Roses, and Solitude are favorites.

### 5. Climbing rose

Two main categories: natural climbers and climbing forms of hybrid teas (or other bush roses). Both categories send out long canes that need support from walls, fences, trellis, etc. Some bloom repeatedly, others have one annual display. Plant at least 6' apart and away from other plants. Lady Banks, Blaze, Dortmund, and Cl. Cecile Brunner are popular. More colors are added each year.

### 6. Miniature Rose

A true rose with miniature canes, foliage, and flowers. Plant height ranges from 6"-3', but most are 12-18" tall. Require same care as other roses but are less picky about pruning than hybrid teas. Ever blooming, hardier than hybrid tea roses, and available in as many colors. Can be grown indoors in a bright, sunny, south facing window. Many new "minis" are developed each year.

### 7. Landscape or Shrub Rose

There have been many new releases of landscape shrub roses recently that have been specifically selected for use as flowering shrubs in landscapes. These ever bloomers have more disease and insect resistance and require less pruning than traditional garden varieties. Also there are fewer thorns, the flowers fall off on their own (less deadheading), and they are grown on their own root stock. Available in 3 growth forms: upright plants, mounding shrubs, and groundcovers.

## WHY PRUNE?

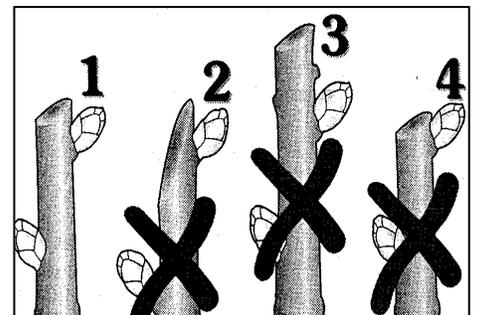
1. To produce larger flowers and invigorate plant and shoot growth.
2. To maintain plant shape and appearance.
3. To remove dead and diseased canes.
4. To encourage new buds to push at the base and renew the canes.

In general, the more severely a plant is pruned the fewer flowers it will have, but they will be of larger size.

As with any other pruning, you should begin with sharp, clean tools and it is advisable to water the plants the day before you begin pruning to lessen the shock to the plant.

## PRUNING HYBRID TEA AND GRANDIFLORA ROSES

1. Ideal time to prune is late in the dormant season, just before buds begin to swell.
2. Begin by cutting away all dead shoots and twiggly growth.
3. Next, prune off twisted and intertwined branches or canes.
4. Select canes and main stems to create a vase-shaped bush with an open center. Three to seven canes may be left depending on size and age of plant. An older vigorous plant can support more canes.
  - All canes should be healthy and vigorous.
  - Always try to keep 1, 2 and 3 year old canes on plant for best flowering.
  - Prune out older canes.
5. Shorten last season's growth by about one-third (and still have an abundance of large flowers).
6. Be sure that all cuts are just above a bud - neither too close or too far away. Ideal cuts are at 45 degree angle and parallel to the direction of the bud (refer to diagram).
7. Use sharp pruning shears to make a precise clean cut.



Proper pruning technique calls for the branch to be cut at an angle just above the bud, as in figure 1. Avoid such common mistakes as: cutting the branch at too sharp an angle (figure 2); cutting too high above the bud (figure 3); and cutting too close to the bud (figure 4). [Nick Gayton/Times-Delta]

## PRUNING FLORIBUNDA AND POLYANTHA ROSES

Since **floribunda** roses produce clusters of flowers and are grown mainly for garden display rather than cut flowers, the method for pruning them varies slightly from the method used for pruning hybrid tea roses. Old wood is good because it produces short stems and large clusters of blooms, therefore we want lots of short stems from lots of lateral stems of old wood from many old canes. Often floribundas are pruned only to control the size, shape and health of the plants. If pruned too heavily, growth will decline; if it is too light, the bush will be large and lack vigor. Many floribundas, though, benefit from annual pruning in which three to five canes remain in a vase-shaped configuration.

**Remove all dead or weak canes** and **cut back** about one-fourth to one-third of **the current year's growth**.

Taking off more of the growth will produce fewer, but larger, blooms; taking off less will produce more, but smaller, ones. **Cut the center branch** from each cluster of branches, and **cut the remaining ones** back to 3 or 4 undeveloped growth buds. If you have a hedge of one variety, cut all plants to a uniform height.

**Polyantha** roses are similar to floribundas in that they produce many small canes and clusters of small blooms (under 2 inches). **Remove all dead canes** and **prune** the remaining ones very lightly, removing **no more than one-fourth to one-third** of the growth.

## PRUNING MINIATURE ROSES

**Miniature bushes:** These roses are not as fussy about pruning as are hybrid teas. Start by removing all leaves so that it is easier to see the branching. Prune out dead, diseased, and old canes and extremely twiggy growth. Remove about 1/2 of the year's growth or just prune to the size and shape desired. If your bush grows too high for the area in which it was planted, then prune more heavily.

If any sucker growth is around the base of the plant, it is best to try and dig it out from the roots, or pull as you would a weed. This is sometimes difficult due to thorns.

**Miniature climbers:** After planting a miniature rose climber do not prune for the first two to three years. They will need to be trained on a trellis like their bigger climbing cousins. Follow pruning directions outlined under climbing roses.

**For all roses** it is important to remove all leaves from the plant and all prunings from around the base of the plant. This practice will help control the spread of such diseases like powdery mildew, black spot, rust, and botrytis blight

## PRUNING CLIMBING ROSES

Climbing roses should be pruned for the same reasons you prune other roses; for plant vigor, for plant shape, and for abundant flower production. They are pruned a bit differently than other roses, however, and we hope you find these instructions helpful.

Climbing roses are generally broken down into two categories, **once-blooming** and **repeat-blooming**, but regardless of their type, they bloom mainly on laterals that spring from the canes. In order to encourage them to put out more flowering laterals, train the canes as horizontally as possible. A trellis, fence, wires or arbor is ideal for this.

Young climbers (including climbing miniatures) under 2 or 3 years old should be pruned as little as possible, or not at all. The strong climbing shoots (canes) should be trained to fan out horizontally without allowing shoots to cross each other. They may be turned and bent into position and held into place onto the fence, wire or trellis with soft plant ties. The shoots coming from these canes are the flower producers. When the spent blossoms have been removed, these shoots may also be tied horizontally to the trellis and will in turn produce more flowering wood.

## PRUNING ONCE-BLOOMING CLIMBING ROSES

This type of rose blooms gloriously, but only once a year and they usually bloom on wood from the previous year. **Prune these roses right after flowering is finished.** If the plant produced many canes, remove several of the oldest and weakest canes to the bud union. If only a few canes were produced, cut them back to several feet above the ground. Train these canes horizontally to your fence, wire or trellis. Winter pruning of these roses should be kept to only removing suckers coming from below the bud union, twiggy and dead growth, and leaves and rose hips (seed pods). Untie and rearrange canes into as horizontal a position as possible. (You can often tell if a climber blooms only once because many of the once-blooming roses have very flexible canes and small flowers borne in clusters.)

## PRUNING REPEAT-BLOOMING CLIMBING ROSES

Climbers that are arranged horizontally on arbors, trellises or fences can bloom for many years on the same older canes. Eventually, if the roses decline in vigor, allow new canes to grow and replace the old ones. Repeat-blooming climbers are pruned in the winter or very early spring when the plants are dormant. Remove all suckers coming from below the bud union. Remove all dead or twiggy growth extending from the bud union. Cut all the flowering laterals that rise from the horizontal growing canes back to 2 or 3 buds. Remove all remaining leaves. Untie canes and reposition them on their support into as horizontal a position as possible.

## LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Once all the pruning is finished in the winter, rake up and dispose of all the dead leaves and ground litter and spray your newly pruned roses with a dormant spray to eliminate over-wintering pests and promote healthy plants.

## Common Rose Problems

**Aphids** - Tiny greenish to pink insects on terminals and buds. Check plants daily. When present wash off with water or insecticidal soap and keep ants off of bushes with sticky barriers or traps to improve biological control.

**Black Spot** - Appears as small black spots on upper sides of leaves. Yellow areas develop around spots and leaves may drop. Prune out and dispose of infected tissue. Remove fallen leaves. Fungal spores spread by splashing water. Black spot is usually not a problem in most of California. Several preventive fungicides help control it, but are not usually needed.

**Botrytis blight on petals and buds** - Affected plants have spotted flower petals and buds that fail to open, often with woolly gray growth (fungal spores) on decaying tissue. Sometimes a problem in spring and fall, but usually gone by summer.

**Mosaic Virus** - Leaves with yellowish to brownish rings, bands, or blotches on leaves, shoots and buds. Rose mosaic viruses are not spread by insects or pruning tools, but by grafting, budding or rooting cuttings from infected plants. If infestation is severe, remove plant, however damage is usually just cosmetic. There is no known treatment for viruses.

**Powdery Mildew** - White to gray powdery coating on leaves, tender stems, and flower buds leads to distorted growth and defoliation. Rose varieties vary greatly in resistance. Plants grown in sunny locations with good air circulation are less likely to have serious problems. Don't over fertilize. Fungicides or sodium bicarbonate plus horticultural oil help control it.

**Rose Leaf Curl** - Leaves curl or drop from new shoots and canes die from this virus. Tolerate or destroy infected plants.

**Rust** - Look for small orange pustules on leaf undersides. This disease is favored by cool moist weather. Avoid overhead watering and prune back infected canes. Low levels can be tolerated. During winter pruning remove and dispose of all leaves.

**Thrips** - Tiny, slender, yellow or black insects found within the blossoms. Petals can be streaked with brown and distorted. Thrips overwinter in debris so keep ground around plant cleaned up. Contact insecticide sprays can't reach thrips inside petals. Frequent clipping of old blooms reduces pest populations.

For more information refer to UC Pest Notes on Roses #7463 and 466 available from the UC IPM Website at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)



Types of Modern Roses courtesy of:

University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners of Tulare-Kings Co.

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