

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.

You should **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.



Rose pruning tips courtesy of:

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

Have a gardening question? The UC Master Gardeners offer free information

On gardening. Call anytime and we will return your call.

Tulare: (559) 684-3325 & (559) 684-3326 Hanford: 582-3211 ext. 2736

