

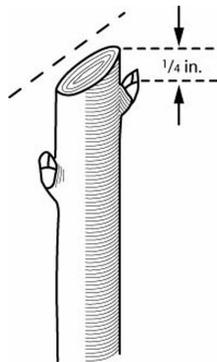


Pruning Garden Roses

The proper time and technique for pruning roses are subjects of controversy. Certain fundamental pruning practices pertain to all garden roses regardless of type:

- Remove any canes that have been broken or damaged by insects or disease.
- Remove one of two rubbing canes.
- Remove spindly canes or those smaller in diameter than the size of a lead pencil.
- Make clean cuts just above a bud or shoot that points toward the outside of the plant (see fig. 13.8).

Fig. 13.8



Make pruning cuts $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (6mm) above a bud and slightly angled away. Source: After Caldwell et al. 1972, p. 10.

When bare-root roses are planted, the tops should be cut back to 12 to 15 inches (30 to 37.5 cm). Remove any damaged or broken roots. For potted roses, these two pruning practices have probably already been performed before purchase. After pruning hybrid teas, floribundas, and grandiforas according to these general recommendations, cut them to a height of 18 to 24 inches (45 to 60 cm) or to a height in balance with other plants in the rose bed. Climbing roses are generally pruned according to the basic principles described above. In addition, cut out very old, heavy canes growing in the center of the plant that are not producing many leaves or flowers by pruning them completely to the ground. The newer canes will produce more growth and flowers. When the canes become quite long, prune them back to keep them in the desired area.

Donald R. Hodel
Environmental and Landscape Horticulturist
University of California
Cooperative Extension
Los Angeles

Dennis R. Pittenger
Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor
UCCE Central Coast & South Region/
UCCE Los Angeles County/ Botany and
Plant Sciences Department, UC Riverside

