

# GREEN TIPS

Department of Horticulture - Michigan State University

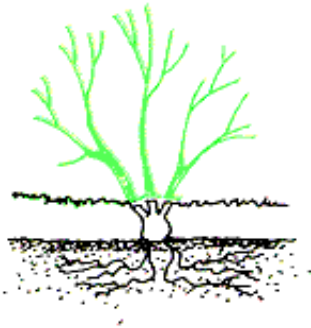
---

---

## PRUNING: ROSES

### Pruning garden roses

FIG. 30



REMOVE ALL WINTER  
KILLED OR DAMAGED ROSE  
CANES, EVEN IF IT MEANS  
CUTTING THE PLANT BACK  
TO THE MULCH LINE.

Research at rose test gardens indicates that hybrid teas, floribundas, polyanthas and grandifloras pruned in March rather than in the fall tend to produce more flowers during the summer. Prune climbing roses immediately after flowering so you don't remove the flower buds for the following year.

Some fundamental pruning practices pertain to all garden roses. When you plant bare root roses, cut the tops back to 12 to 15 inches. (Frequently this has already been done before you buy them). Prune any broken or damaged roots. With potted roses, these two practices are generally taken care of before you buy the plants.

Because of the severity of northern winters, canes are frequently killed to the soil or mulch line. It is then a very simple practice to cut them back by removing all of this dead or damaged wood (*Fig. 30*). Canes damaged on only one side should also be removed--the damaged area will affect the

growth of new shoots.

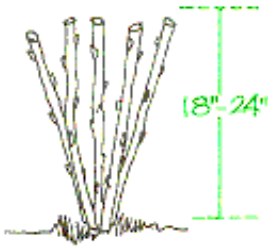
Other rose pruning practices include removing any broken canes or canes damaged by insects or diseases, removing one of the two canes that criss-cross and may be rubbing, and removing canes that are spindly or smaller in diameter than a pencil.

---

---

Source: MSU Extension Bulletin E-1947

FIG. 31



AFTER REMOVING BROKEN, INSECT-DAMAGED OR DISEASED CANES, CANES THAT CROSS AND RUB, AND SMALL WEAK CANES, CUT HYBRID TEA, GRANDIFLORA AND FLORIBUNDA ROSE PLANTS BACK TO A HEIGHT OF 18 TO 24 INCHES.

After pruning according to these general recommendations, hybrid teas, floribundas and grandifloras should be cut to a height of 18 to 24 inches (Fig. 31).

Prune climbing roses in accordance with basic pruning practices. In addition, remove any very old, heavy canes growing in the center of the plant that are not producing many leaves or flowers. The newer canes will produce more growth and flowers. The canes may become quite long, so it will be necessary to prune them back to keep the plant confined to the allotted area (Fig. 32). Climbing roses bloom on the previous year's wood. If the previous year's wood is removed, they will produce no flowers. When planting a climber, allow enough space for its growth or be prepared for continual pruning.

When pruning roses, cut back to just above a bud that is pointing toward the outside of the plant. Keep pruners sharp so they make clean cuts.

FIG. 32



PRUNE CLIMBING ROSES AFTER THEY FLOWER. REMOVE OLD CANES IN THE CENTER THAT ARE PRODUCING FEW LEAVES AND FLOWERS. CUT BACK THE ENDS OF CANES TO CONFINE THE PLANT TO ITS ALLOTTED SPACE.

MSU is an Affirmative-Action Equal-Opportunity Institution. MSU Extension programs are open to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work in agriculture and home economics, acts of May 8, and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S.D. Department of Agriculture, Arlen Leholm, Director, Michigan State University Extension, E. Lansing, MI. 48824.

This information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement by the MSU Extension or bias against those not mentioned. Hthis bulletin becomes public property upon publication and may be reprinted verbatim as a separate or within another publication with credit to MSU. Reprinting cannot be used to endorse or advertise a commercial product or company.

GT1120 - March, 1998

Source: MSU Extension Bulletin E-1947

---

Source: MSU Extension Bulletin E-1947