

**Advice to Grow By  
... Ask Us!**

**UCCE Master Gardeners  
San Mateo & San Francisco Counties**



# Rose Pruning

Presented by Stu Dalton  
Peninsula Rose Society  
January 19, 2022



**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UCCE Master Gardener Program  
San Mateo and San Francisco Counties

# Learning Objectives

- When to “dormant” prune roses
- Tools and Garden Safety
- How to prune – cuts, different rose types
- Planting, organic amendments,
- Dormant spray (organic, optional)
- Water management for roses



# Existing Plant Pruning

## (Repeat Bloom, Modern Roses)

- Prune ~ Jan 1- Feb 15
- Prune out dead, diseased or damaged and crossing or weak canes and suckers
- Prune *once-blooming roses after* bloom
- Shape the plant
- Prune large plants leaving pencil size canes  
If the plant is getting too big, prune aggressively, too small, prune lightly

Jan 1 - Feb 15  
Modern Rose  
Pruning Time  
In The SF Bay  
Area

Winter is also a great time to plant, move, repot or replace roses in the Bay Area



# Safety and Main Pruning Tools

- **Be safe!** Protect hands, head, arms and eyes
- Sharpen tools
- Clean scratches and thorn/prickle punctures (use liquid e.g., iodine)
- Use “bypass” pruners (shown) not anvil type

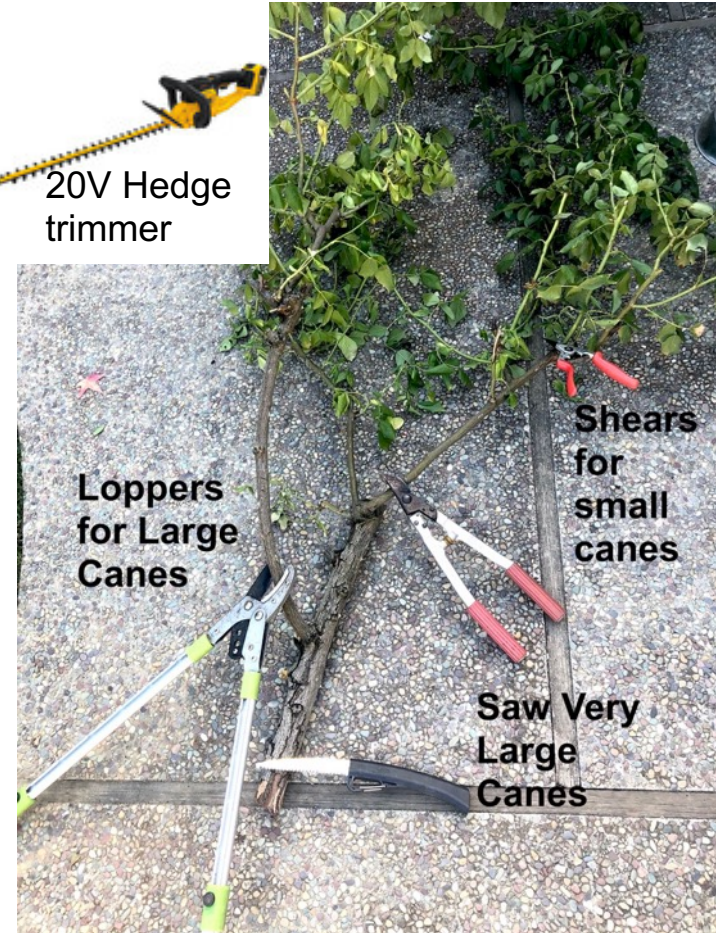


# Make it Easy on You and the Rose

- Cut cleanly
- Use Mechanical advantage to make your work easier
- Taking out oldest growth periodically rejuvenates a rose
- Oldest rose? 700-1000 years Hildesheim, Germany



20V Hedge trimmer



Loppers for Large Canes

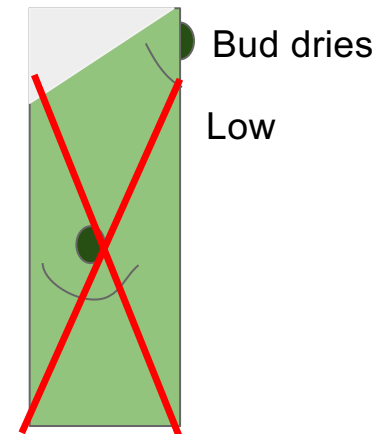
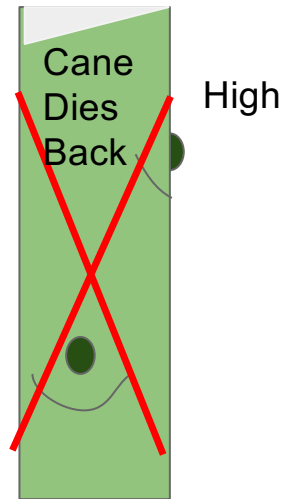
Shears for small canes

Saw Very Large Canes



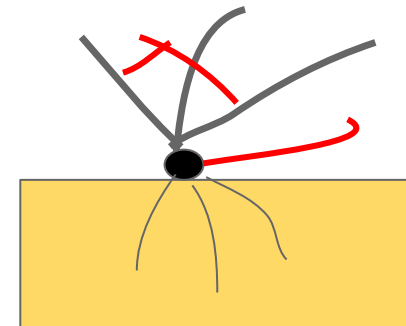
# Prune and "Point" the growth

- Prune to **point the growth outward**
- "Point" buds **away** from the center
- Sharp **bypass shears** not "anvil" type - sharp blade on "kept" side
- About 45 degrees ending across from bud eye about ¼ inch above bud
- Too high - dieback
- Too low - bud eye dries and dies



# Prune Large and Mini-roses

- Remove dead, diseased, crossing or very weak growth (red)
- Clear out center - leave “open vase”
- Leave strongest canes (3-5 is plenty for modern roses)
- Remove oldest canes periodically
- Floribundas leave more branching structure (light pruning)
- Light pruning  $\sim \frac{1}{3}$  reduction
- Heavy pruning  $\sim \frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  reduction

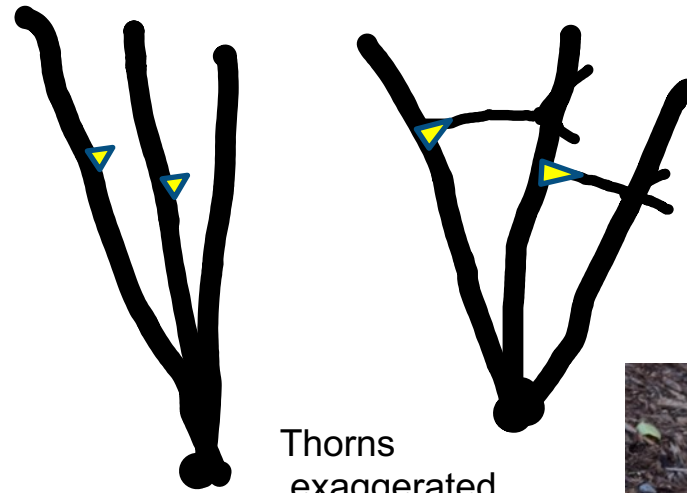


Minis have no bud union - on own roots



# Using a “Prop” to Shape

- If canes are too close and middle is crowded
- Put “props” between canes – they can last
- Like bonsai, plants grow as trained
- Waste pruning material- no leaves for props
- Bottom cut flat, strip leaves leave a “Y”
- Spread with prop



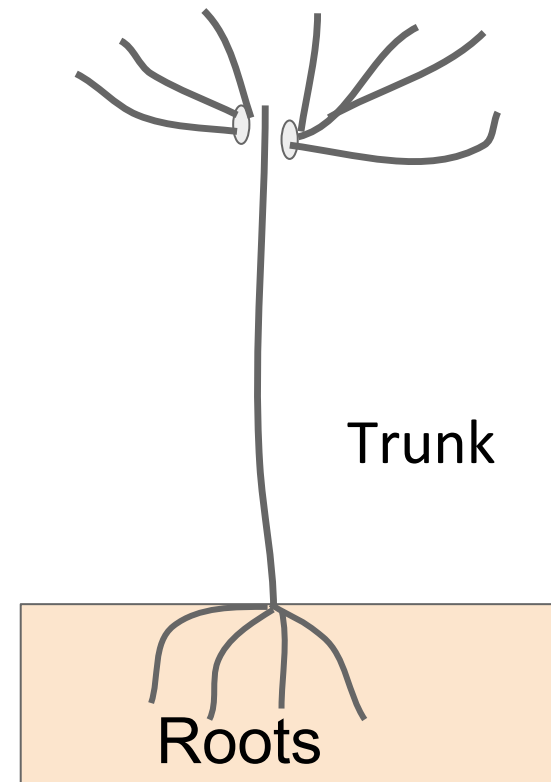
Thorns  
exaggerated  
Hold bottom in place



# Pruning Rose Standards (aka tree roses)

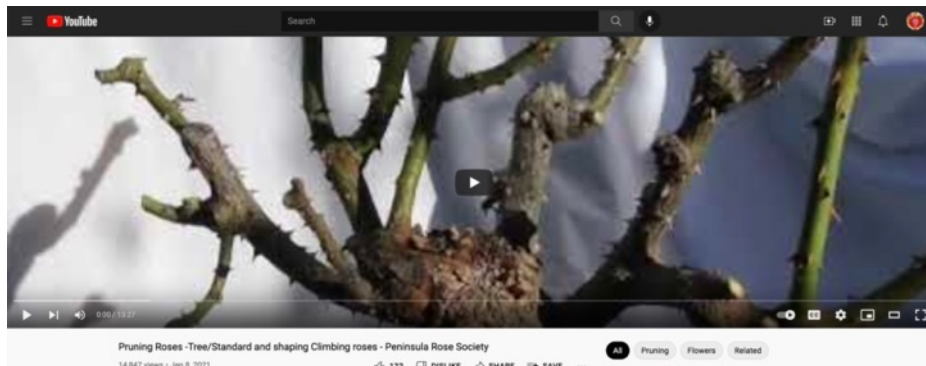
- Standards have four pieces
- 1- Rootstock, 2-trunk, 3&4- two budded “antlers”
- Prune the antlers like you would a bush - open and airy, cut out weak, crossing, dead, broken canes
- Anything else from the roots or trunk is a sucker

Flowering “antlers”



# Video – Pruning Trees and Climbers

- **Pruning Roses -Tree/Standard and Shaping Climbing roses - Peninsula Rose Society**
- 13 minute YouTube video is available
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vtE-zvpVmZ8>



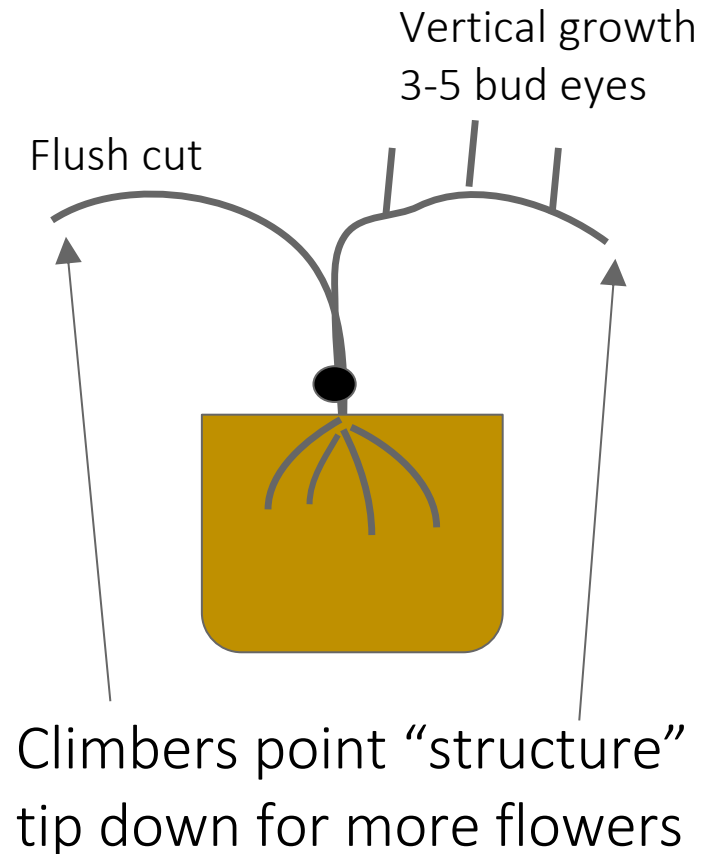
# Tree Rose Mid-December 2021

- After winter pruning the first bloom was in April
- Then after each bloom, deadhead cut back, alfalfa added
- 3-4 cycles of bloom this year on reblooming roses about 6 weeks apart



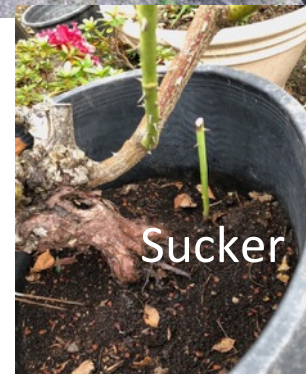
# Prune Climbing Roses

- Remove dead, diseased, damaged, crossing or very weak growth
- Climbers are different
  - Train for the first year or two for structure don't prune growth – **point tips\_DOWN**
  - For trellises or arches train over the top and down
  - Prune flush to the horizontal canes or leave 3-5 bud eyes on vertical growth



# Remove Suckers (grafted roses)

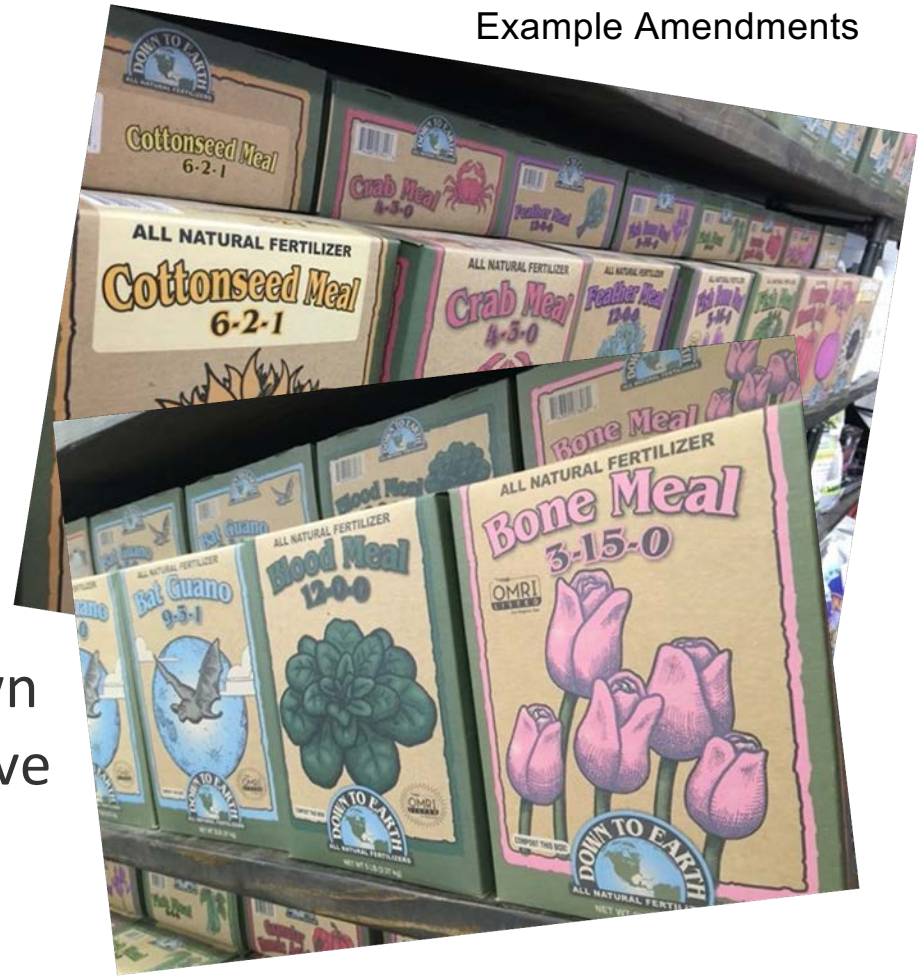
- Suckers compete for the energy from roots
- Can weaken or kill the desired rose
- They are growth from rootstock below the bud union (a “knob” where budded)
- Remove them **completely** or they take over!



# Get Plants, Amendments

- Buy plants that fit (small in front, large in back)
- Space between ~ plant width
- Test your soil conditions
  - pH (6-7 is best),
  - clay, loam, sandy
- Amend fill soil - mix  $\sim\frac{1}{3}$  well-rotted compost for most soils
- Organic fertilizers break down slowly, don't tend to burn, have micronutrients.

Example Amendments




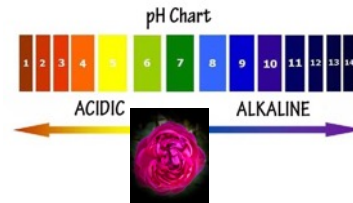
# Fertilize periodically or Slow Release

- Synthetic / chemical fertilizers are often applied monthly
- Add later dig in March - September
- Organic fertilizers release slowly as bacteria in soil frees the nutrients
  - Alfalfa pellets – cheap at feed stores, have growth stimulant tricontanol
- Good compost adds nutrients and micronutrients, improves soil health



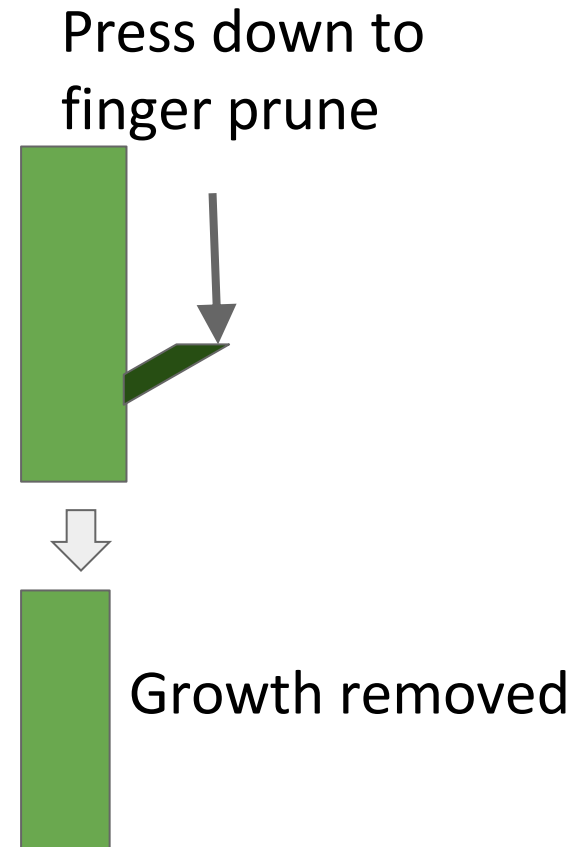
# Plant or Replace

- Look at plants to see poor performers (give them 2 years to get established)
- “Shovel Prune” – Remove poor performers 
- Order bare root plants early for good selection. Own root plants cannot sucker.
- More own root plants are available now – potted, various firms
- Get needed amendments (preferably after testing soil for pH 6-7)



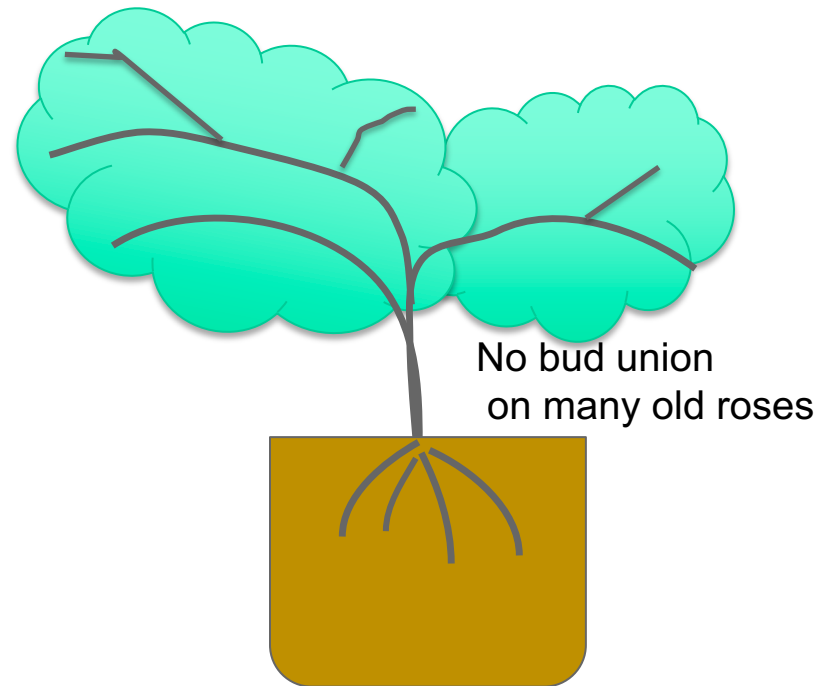
# After Pruning (Finger Prune)

- Weeks after you prune, buds swell and grow
- Some will “point” to the middle and be near the bottom
- With a glove, push down to remove the ones toward the center and near the bottom of main canes
- Leave other growth where you want it to be (point it)
- Keep growth from bud union



# Prune Once-Bloomers *After* Bloom

- Many old roses bloom only once per year
- Don't prune these in winter, wait until after bloom. Spring flowers are on 1-2 year-old wood
- Prune lightly to shape or train the rose
- ***Remove dead, damaged and diseased growth***



# Typical Fungal Diseases



**Rose Rust**  
**Fungal Disease**  
**Moist Conditions**  
**rusty early, black later**



**Blackspot**  
**Fungal Disease**  
**Worst in wet weather**



# Managing Disease/ Pests

- If you don't wish to spray for fungal disease, try pruning for more air and light and increase ground to foliage height. Clean up debris
- Dormant spray (e.g., oil/copper) reduces diseases/pests over the year
- Insects are smothered by oils and Neem oil has other actions
- Black spot is often worst in wet weather -remove infected leaves
- If you spray, use less-toxic sprays – these are OMRI listed “organics”



Example OMRI Sprays (Organic Materials Research Institute)



# If You Spray

- **READ and FOLLOW the label!**  
Protect yourself and wash up afterwards
- Spray early on a day that is dry, not windy and will be dry for 24 hours. **Before** bees appear.
- Spray oils and soaps on a day not exceeding 80 degrees to avoid spray burn
- Spray underside of leaves as well as tops
- Spray ground around the plant





## **Acknowledgements**

Thank you, Peninsula Rose Society for hosting and UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, for supporting information for this presentation:

Presentation Prepared by:

Stu Dalton

UCCE Master Gardeners of San Mateo & San Francisco Counties

President, Peninsula Rose Society 1988, 2018-19, VP 2022

American Rose Society Master Rosarian

Photographs and Illustrations by Stu Dalton, unless noted otherwise



## Got Questions? Ask a Master Gardener!

**Call** our helpline at: (650) 276-7430

**Email** questions to: [mgsmsf@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgsmsf@ucanr.edu) (please include your name, city, phone # (best time to call), question/description of problem, photos)

**When our helpline offices reopen, visit** us in three locations (closed on holidays). If bringing samples, please enclose in a sealed container.

<b>Mondays 9am-4pm</b> Elkus Ranch Conference Center 1500 Purisima Creek Road Half Moon Bay, CA 94019	<b>Wednesdays 10:30am-2pm</b> San Francisco Botanical Garden (SFBG) Library (no samples please) 1199 9th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94122	<b>Thursdays 9am-4pm</b> Veterans Memorial Senior Center 1455 Madison Avenue Redwood City, CA 94061
---	--	--

Website: [smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.org](http://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.org)

**Follow** us on social media for seasonal tips: @SFBayGardeners



# More on Roses?

## Peninsula Rose Society

- [WWW.peninsularosesociety.org](http://WWW.peninsularosesociety.org)
- Meets third Tuesday, 7:30 PM (not July, Dec) Via Zoom
- During Pandemic, weekly Zoom chats 2PM Thursday
- Normally, Veterans Center, 1455 Madison, Redwood City
- Send questions and issues or ask for a visit  
[consultingrosarians@peninsularosesociety.org](mailto:consultingrosarians@peninsularosesociety.org)
- YouTube videos search “ Peninsula Rose Society Youtube” for our Channel. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram
- Email [studalton@gmail.com](mailto:studalton@gmail.com) for questions on the presentation or [www.peninsularosesociety.org](http://www.peninsularosesociety.org) “Resources”



# Rose Videos on YouTube from Peninsula Rose Society

Rose Pruning Tools and Hedge trimmers

<https://youtu.be/kNS1dLkFZ-M>

Pruning Shrub Roses

[https://youtu.be/G\\_Hy5\\_Ptz8o](https://youtu.be/G_Hy5_Ptz8o)

Proper Cuts

<https://youtu.be/Vz6UX2fTM44>

Pruning Tree/ Standard Roses and Climbers

<https://youtu.be/vtE-zvpVmZ8>

Repotting Roses

<https://youtu.be/2fUs0xMfsEQ>



## References

UCANR Roses: Cultural Practices and Weed Control Revised 7/19

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7465.html>

UCANR Roses: Diseases and Abiotic Disorders Revised 2/20

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7463.html>

UCANR **Roses**: Insect and Mite Pests and Beneficials Revised 10/19

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7466.html>

American Rose Society: Consulting Rosarian Handbook, July 2015, October 2019

<https://www.rose.org/>

American Rose Society: A Guide to Rose Diseases and their Management

<https://26d66698-46f2-4fb6-988d>

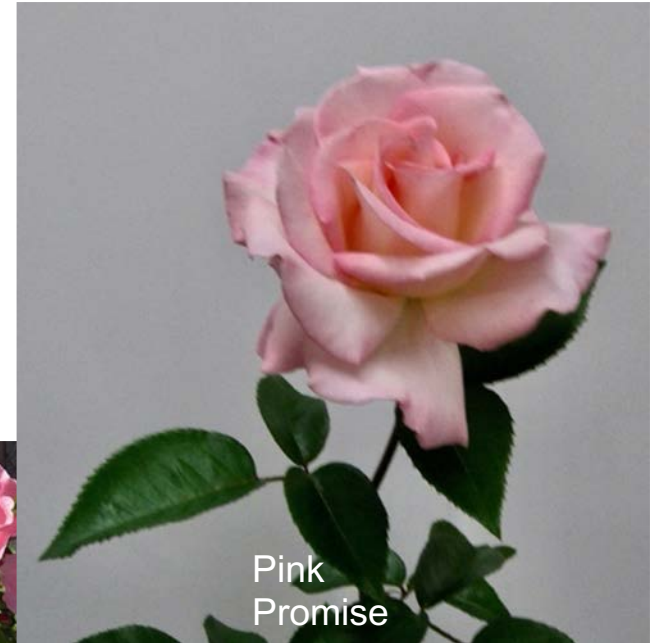
[7adb1a57e8c0.filesusr.com/ugd/b152c0\\_d42726a1f5b444d5967e72192a8b3c62.pdf](https://26d66698-46f2-4fb6-988d7adb1a57e8c0.filesusr.com/ugd/b152c0_d42726a1f5b444d5967e72192a8b3c62.pdf)



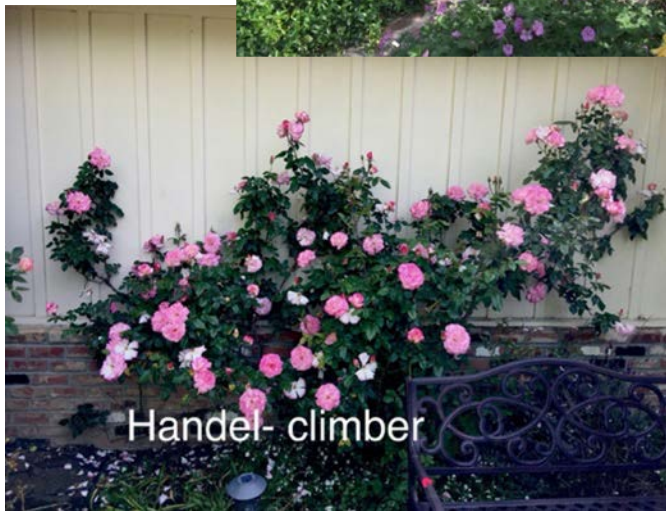
# Questions



Graham Thomas  
Note tip down



Pink  
Promise



Handel- climber



Clair Matin

