



## Winter Rose Pruning

If you want better flowers with fewer problems, dormant/Winter pruning and cleanup of plants followed by proper disease control and fertilization as growth starts in the Spring are key. For more visual information on pruning you can go on the PRS YouTube Channel with pre-recorded pruning videos (search Peninsula Rose Society YouTube) or click the link) <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCLJTFnNzLrWSoCkyc93PCA>. There are other good pruning demos online by Jackson and Perkins etc.

### WHY?

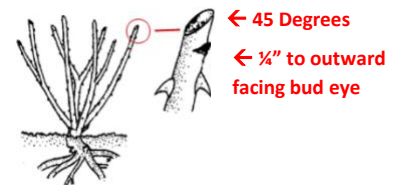
Proper pruning **shapes** rose bushes and rose climbers, **improves their appearance, encourages growth** of new flowering wood and basal shoots, produces **more and better flowers**, and promotes greater air circulation and light which assists in the **prevention of fungal disease**.

### WHEN?

Annually, January – Mid-February in our area. Once bloomers - prune lightly after bloom to shape.

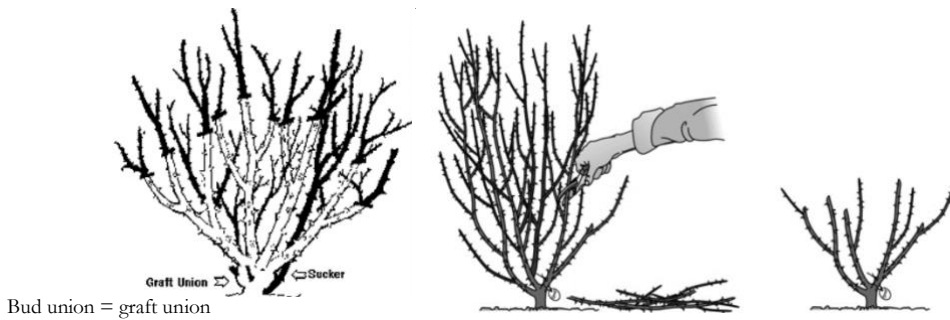
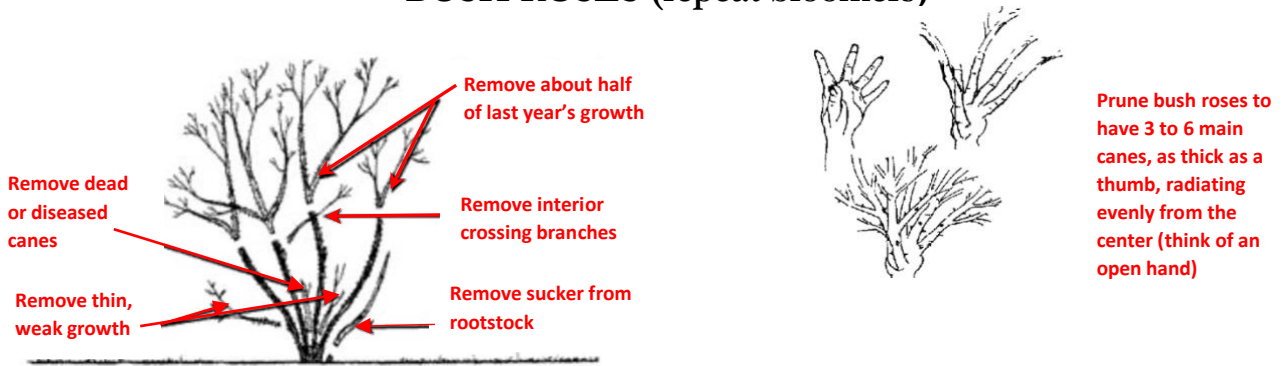
### HOW?

- Use good quality, sharpened bypass type shears and loppers, a small pruning saw, and leather gloves (preferably heavy/ thorn-proof gauntlet gloves). Wear a hat and glasses (or goggles) to protect your eyes.
- “Top” plants when you start pruning by approximately 1/4 to remove leaves and aid viability and access. Hedge shears/trimmers speed the “haircut” to get visibility.
- Cut out dead, diseased wood. Prune **Grandiflora** and **Floribunda** roses down to half to two thirds their size. Prune **Hybrid Tea** roses to about one third to half size. Severe pruning = longer stems, less pruning = more flowers. Secure long **Climber** rose canes as horizontal as possible and point tips horizontally or downward. Shape young Climber canes (don’t prune) the first 1-2 years. These are the future structure. Prune laterals flush, or to 4-5 bud eyes. Prune most **Old/ heirloom** roses to shape only. Prune **once-blooming** roses *after* Spring flowering or you will reduce bloom. **Strip all old leaves**, clean up and use city compost.
- Prune **bush roses** to retain three to six main canes, cutting away the oldest and weakest canes first, flush with bud union. Remove all dead or dying canes (identified as canes that are shriveled, dark brown, or black), twiggy growth, inward crossing canes, anything diseased, damaged or that has dieback. Remove suckers (below bud union/graft).
- Cut about 1/4” above **outward facing** bud eye at ~ 45-degree angle with the sharp blade of the shears on the kept wood).
- Sealing large cuts is no longer needed in our area.
- Remove all cuttings, leaves and pruning debris from rose beds (important to minimize later disease). Apply dormant spray (e.g., copper and oil per directions) to each bush and surrounding soil **before** plant starts to leaf out. If you spray at all, this is the most important spray of the year. It does not kill bees when plants are dormant and bees are not present.

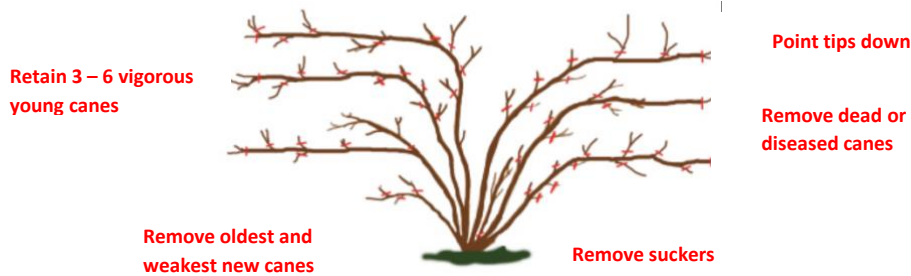


- After pruning add compost at drip line and mulch for soil health and water retention
- Follow up several weeks later by “finger pruning” inward pointing buds and unwanted growth.
- After roses start to grow actively, (~mid-February) water and work in balanced fertilizer

## BUSH ROSES (repeat bloomers)



## CLIMBER



Reprint courtesy of Peninsula Rose Society.

Plan to come to the Annual Show and Sale May 5, 2024 at 1400 Roosevelt Ave Redwood City more information [www.peninsularosesociety.org](http://www.peninsularosesociety.org) email [contact@peninsularosesociety.org](mailto:contact@peninsularosesociety.org)