

## WHAT ROSES WANT

### What do roses want most?

1. WATER
2. right plant, right space
3. a good hole
4. the right light
5. fertilizer
6. pest protection
7. pruning and deadheading

### WATER

- drip irrigation will work for roses, but check drippers often
- roses require supplemental water in the hottest months
- occasional flooding will help to flush out salts in the soil

### RIGHT PLANT, RIGHT SPACE

- floribundas, miniatures, or mini-floras for small spaces
- hybrid teas or grandifloras for large spaces
- shrubs for really large spaces
- climbers on fences or arbors

### A GOOD HOLE

- in a spot that will allow the plant to grow to its normal size
- deep enough to go through the caliche and allow water to drain
- wide enough to let the roots spread out
- native soil amended with compost or potting soil
- a good hole might be a large pot filled with good soil

### RIGHT LIGHT

- at least 6 hours of sun a day for best bloom
- late day shade for protection against hot sun
- light colored roses are especially likely to burn in hot sun

### FERTILIZER

- organic fertilizers help improve soil as well as feeding plants
- chemical fertilizers are more likely to cause salt buildup but get quicker response
- combination products with pesticides may kill beneficial soil organisms

### PEST PROTECTION

- dormant oil spray in late winter helps control bugs and diseases
- aphids are pesky but can be disrupted by water spray
- thrips can't be controlled except by chemical spray on the buds, when color begins to show
- spider mites are best controlled by water spray on the undersides of leaves, every day for a week
- powdery mildew responds well to Neem oil – also a safe pesticide

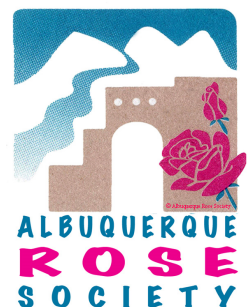
### PRUNING AND DEADHEADING

- details attached

### WORDS OF WISDOM

- Place blocks or flagstones under your pots so rose roots won't grow through into the soil, and tree roots won't come up into the pots looking for water!
- Test your hole for drainage before you plant.
- Roses don't like rock mulch.

For more details  
on growing roses,  
buy the booklet  
**GROWING  
ROSES IN  
ALBUQUERQUE.**



## Hints on Pruning

### WHY?

Annual pruning helps keep plants young.

### WHEN?

Prune in late March or early April, before the bushes are completely leafed out.

If some of your roses only bloom once in spring, prune them after they bloom.

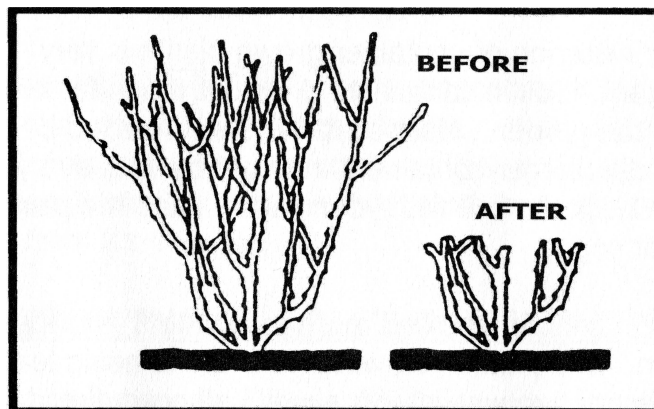
### HOW MUCH?

If your roses are new (planted last year) then just cut off the twiggy growth and get serious with pruning next year.

If your bushes are Hybrid Teas or Miniatures and they have been given reasonable care, remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the top growth.

Prune floribundas, shrubs, Austin roses, and most Old Garden Roses less heavily than hybrid teas. Remove a few of the oldest canes and then shape the bush by pruning off about one-third of the top growth.

For an old bush that has had no care for many years, remove 1/3 of the top growth and take out the oldest canes right down to the bud union. This should stimulate a new cane to appear out of the bud union. This new cane is called a basal break. These new breaks are very tender and should be tied up for support while they are young.



### HOW?

Clean under the roses before you prune but be careful not to break new sprouting canes.

Use clean and sharp tools. Spray tools between bushes

with diluted alcohol or Lysol to avoid spreading disease.

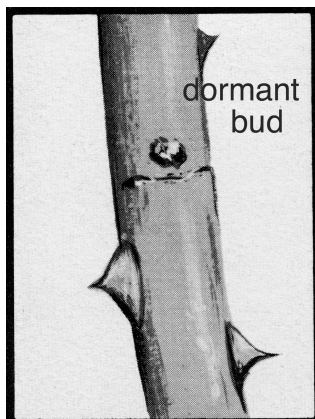
Remove all diseased or dead wood.

Remove some canes and small branches from the center of the plant to open up the center. Leave the strong, young canes and remove older ones.

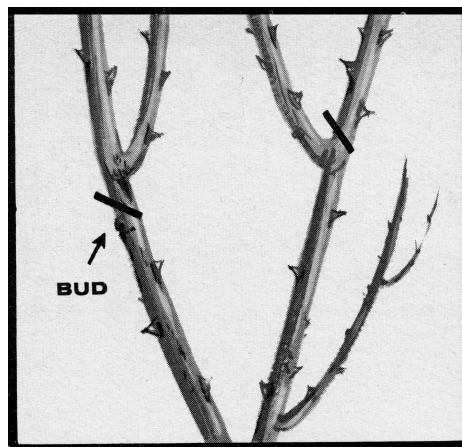
Make pruning cuts at an angle to help moisture drain off.

Make the cut about 1/4 inch above a dormant bud or eye, which looks like a smile on the cane's surface. New growth will come from the eye, so cut above an eye that faces the outside of the bush.

Seal each cut on larger canes with white glue to avoid damage by carpenter bees, which use the new cuts as a place to lay eggs,



## CLIMBING ROSES



In spring, remove dead wood and several of the oldest canes, and then prune climbers back from the tips just enough to stimulate growth.

Train the climber onto its support so the canes grow horizontally.

In summer and fall, remove canes that grow away from the support.

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