

Preparation:

- ♥ Gather your pruning tools, gloves, Sharpen pruning tools each pruning session.
- ♥ Wear protective gloves.
- ♥ If haven't done so already, cut down the taller canes to about 3-4' from ground.

PRUNE FROM THE BOTTOM UP. *This means you can prune your roses faster!!!*

Look at the base of the rose where the canes emerge.

Decide which canes to eliminate.

1. Remove all dead, damaged and diseased canes.
(if cane center is brown, cut down further till center of cane is white).
2. Remove suckers from the trunk or root area.
3. Remove canes that cross through the center of the plant or rub on other canes.
4. Eliminate older gray canes in established plants to stimulate new canes.

AFTER CUTTING OUT MAJOR CANES—TRIM FOR SIZE, SHAPE.

Make cuts slightly above a bud facing outside of the bush. About 1/4 inch above bud.

Toss your pruning debris and rose leaves in the trash.

Pull off any remaining leaves. Clean bed of old fallen rose leaves. I usually rake or blow the leaves onto the grass to be mowed and tossed away with the grass clippings.



FINISH PRUNING BY VALENTINES DAY



AFTER PRUNING:

FERTILIZE. Use an organic fertilizer. Why? It makes for a more resilient soil eco system which generates healthier plants that are more resistant to diseases and insect pests.

Now is a good time to check the drip sprinklers since everything is more visible and assessable.

This is also a good time to add compost, manure and then top dress rose beds with mulch.

*Remember that every rose, every garden, and every gardener is different. **Don't over think it.** We are fortunate to have sunny days in January and February so enjoy the warm sun.*

So go ahead just prune—your roses will thank you with lots of blooms come spring.

The best way to learn is to see how a rose pruned. Check Sierra Foothills YouTube Page for Pruning Demonstration of different types of Roses [.https://www.youtube.com/](https://www.youtube.com/)

ROSE PRUNING TIPS

ROSES BENEFIT FROM REMOVING 1/3 TO 1/2 OF LAST YEAR'S GROWTH

ALWAYS REMOVE DEAD AND DISEASED AND DAMAGED CANES.

The amount of cutting can depend on what type of rose you have and the size of the bush. For example, Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora and Floribundas should keep at least 3-6 strong healthy canes, whereas Shrub and English roses do best to maintain 6-8 canes and generally need light pruning to maintain shape.

Renewing Older Rose Bushes

If you have an old rose bush, rosarians will prune out the oldest canes. This will encourage new canes to emerge from the base. Done several years running, eventually, the entire bush will consist of newer canes.

How to tell old canes from new canes. **Color!** New canes are shiny bright green: as they age, canes get thicker, and acquire linear streaks. Old canes are gray and thick. If you just have grey canes, you need to remove one or two of them. Remove a gray old large cane next to the bud union, because it will stimulate the union to produce a new cane to replace what you pruned. (SEE page 9 for picture of new & old canes).

Forgot to Prune your Roses!?!

What happens if you don't finish by mid-February? Bloom will be delayed a few weeks. What happens if you don't prune? Your plants will be bigger and may have smaller blooms. See, no harm done. If the rose gets too tall or large, prune it lightly during the growing season.

In fact, some rosarians do pruning during the growing season to reduce the workload during the winter especially in the case of older roses that need new basal breaks. (Canes that originate from the bud union or from the base of the rose.)



Get a Sharpener for your pruning tools. Use it frequently.



Get thorn Proof Goatskin Leather Gardening Gloves with Long Cowhide Gauntlet to Protect Your Arms to the elbow.



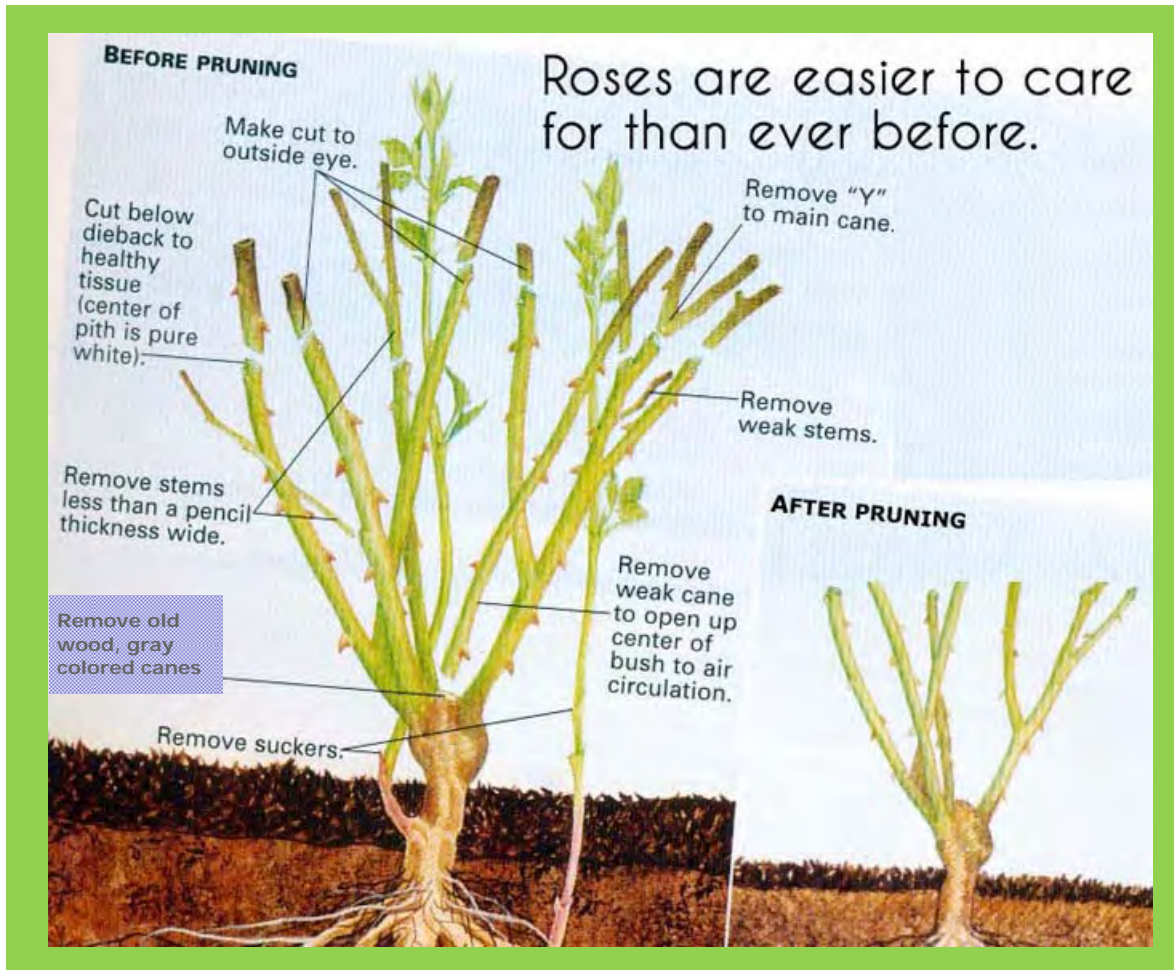
Hand Saw or small cordless Reciprocating saw for larger canes and to trim canes ends near bud union.

Use only bypass pruners and loppers! They cut canes with a scissor like action. Purchase the best you can afford because it makes the job easier and go faster while putting less stress on your hands.

Pruning Tools:

- ◆ Bypass pruners for cutting small branches.
- ◆ Long handled bypass lopper for cutting the canes.
- ◆ Sharpener for your pruners.
- ◆ Hand Saw or a small Cordless Reciprocating Saw for large canes of close cutting of canes.
- ◆ Leather gloves to protect your hands from the prickles.
- ◆ Lysol Spray.
- ◆ Kneepad (optional)

Hybrid TEA/GRANDIFLORA—prune to a vase shaped plant with open center. Target height is 2.5' to 3.5'



BEFORE & AFTER

Climbing Rose Pruning



Horizontal canes mean more flowers. The uppermost bud on a branch secretes hormones to repress the growth of those below. If a cane is horizontal, no bud has dominance, so all the buds grow and bloom.

REMOVE DISEASED & DAMAGED CANES

CANKER OR CANE DIEBACK

Stem cankers are caused by a variety of fungal pathogens that enter roses when they've been damaged by the elements

Expect to see roses with some dead and cankered canes. The problems can be especially acute on old established roses that have lost some vigor and on young bare root roses emerging from cold storage.

In early spring, pruned stems provide wound sites which can be colonized by canker causing fungi. The stems will yellow, often have red spots and later become brown or black. Black raised spots are sometimes found in the discolored tissue; they are the fruiting structures of the fungus and containing spores which spread the fungus.

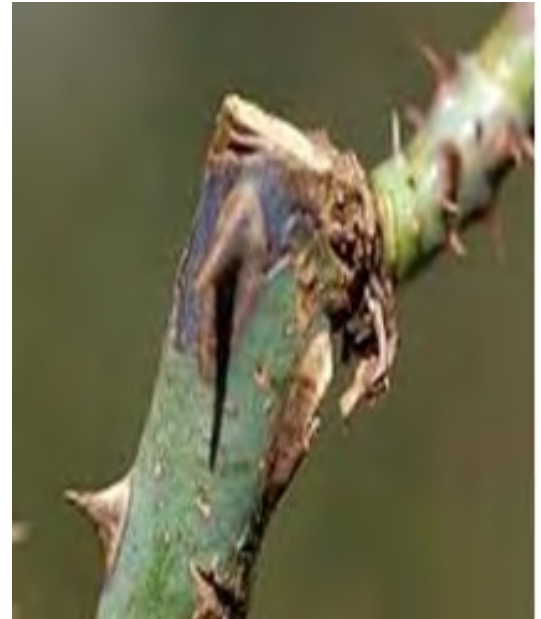
The canker fungus is most active during the cold time of the year when roses are not actively growing. Pruning cuts or wounds on stems provide sites of entry for germinating spores. The fungi are not high level pathogens and can not produce the disease when conditions are favorable for plant growth. During the dormant months, fungi colonize the tissues, sporulate and are spread to other pruning or wound sites. The disease can be extensive and severe under the ideal conditions for development.

Good sanitation is the primary means of control. Prune out, remove, and haul away with the trash all infected, dead, and weak parts of canes, as well as infected leaves, flowers, buds, and hips.

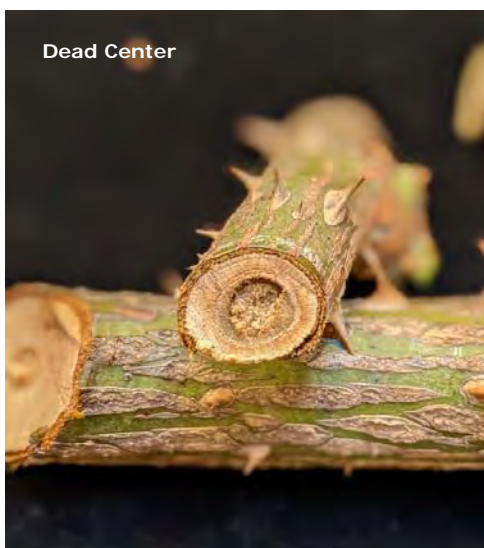
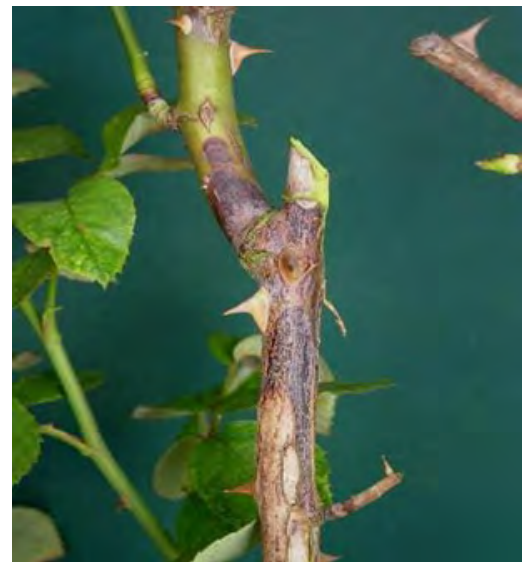
CANE BORER DAMAGE

The cane boring insects bore a hole down into the center pith of the **rose** canes in order to create nests for their young. The two most common cane **borers** are actually small wasps. They are very active at seeking out the cut ends of **rose** canes to bore down into from early spring all the way through early fall.

The pictures at the left so dead center and healthy white center. Prune back until the center of the cane, is white. (The center is



Bacterial Canker



called the pith and carries water upwards to the leaves and sugar to the roots.)



Cane Borer Damage

DON'T LET DR. HUEY SUCKER PUNCH YOU!

Is there a Dr. Huey in your garden? *Close up of Dr Huey bloom at right.*

Not to get too technical, but most roses plants are made of two roses—the top portion with its lovely blooms that you selected because you like pink roses. The roots however are usually Dr Huey a very vigorous climbers that the rose growers use as a rootstalk to impart more vigor to the rose plant.



The best way to tell if you have a Dr Huey escapee is whether you have two types of blooms on your rose bush in April and May since Dr. Huey only blooms once a year. Plus the canes are long and whippy and will be reach out beyond the deminsions of the original rose.



The only issue is that Dr. Huey is also bred to bloom and doesn't like staying underground. Canes will emerge from just below the bud union and from shallow roots. Once a cane starts you have the beginning of a hostile takeover because Dr. Huey is more vigorous that most roses budded to its rootstock.

When you are pruning look for canes that are thin slender that emerge from below the bud union or from the roots. In a rose consultation, I had to recommend to the gardener that they should dig up couple of climbing roses that were almost all Dr Heuy. Now it will take several years for their replacement roses to fill in. The climbing roses surrounded a small patio and it was just an outstanding feature of their garden.

You can not just cut the Dr. Huey cane (sucker). Cutting suckers just makes them come back stronger or in multiples!

Here is a sucker about 2" from a tree rose. I dug down 3" or so and uncovered the root that the sucker emerged from.

Grab the sucker and tear it from the root. Hopefully, all the growth points came with the sucker. If that doesn't work for you. Cut the root on both sides of the sucker.

If you remove a rose from the garden, roots left in the soil will sometimes develop into Dr. Hueys. They're pretty easy to pull out if you catch them while young. Also, Dr. Huey has long whippy canes since it is a climber.

Identify a sucker, and cutting the root on both sides of where the root erupts. You can also tear off the sucker, but there is no guarantee that all bud eyes for

Cut one sucker; you will get sev-eral instead of the one.



Dr Huey erupting from root.



Root & attached Sucker



OLD versus NEW Rose Rejuvenation

#1) Youngest cane-green or reddish green. Produces the most blooms.

#2) Last year's cane-green with striations or lines.

#3) Oldest cane-Gray or Brownish/gray



Ideally you want all green canes. If you just have old canes, cut back one to the crown to encourage new green canes. Do again, the following year. Continue till all the canes are green. This is how a bush is rejuvenated. ~

OLD GARDEN ROSES (OGRs)

Pruning OGRs is rather easy: Don't, if you can help it.

Many OGRs bloom only once a year. These "once bloomers" should be pruned only once a year. These should be pruned soon after the blooming cycle is complete and before new growth appears.

After the once-a-year bloom, remove up-to 1/3 of the oldest wood to give the shrub a clean look. Cut out unproductive canes and trim longest canes to maintain desired size. Once-blooming roses bloom on old wood (stems that were produced the year(s) before). Retain as many branches as possible, because next year's flowers will bloom on wood that grew the previous summer .

What is an Old Garden Rose? To history it is a rose being of a class in existence before the year 1867. Why 1867? Simple. This is the year a rose named "La France" was introduced. La France is considered to be the first Hybrid Tea. It is the offspring of the Hybrid Perpetual "Madame Victor Verdier" with the Tea rose "Madame Bravy". The hybridizer was Guillot and what marked La France as being different from other roses was the high centered blossom we associate with Hybrid Teas of today. The name Hybrid Tea in fact comes from a wedding of the classes of the parents of La France. A Hybrid Perpetual and a Tea rose.

TETANUS BOOSTER REMINDER

We all work in the soil and occasionally get stuck with thorns, which makes having the booster important. Tetanus is a soil born bacteria which can have some rather unpleasant symptoms. So while the garden is taking a break, make your appointment.

Even though it happens rarely, people can still get tetanus and experience serious or deadly effects. There is no cure for tetanus, and no definitive proof that you will have lifelong immunity with childhood vaccinations alone. So for now, the CDC continues to recommend booster vaccines every 10 years to help your immune system protect against these infections. If you have questions about the tetanus vaccine, talk to your doctor.

Tetanus, sometimes known as "lockjaw," is an infection caused by a type of bacteria called *Clostridium tetani*. When this bacteria invades the body, it can produce a toxin that leads to painful muscle tightening and stiffness. In severe cases, it can lead to trouble breathing, seizures, and death. Tetanus does not spread from person to person. Usually it enters the body through contaminated breaks in the skin. There are about 30 reported cases of tetanus in the US each year. These cases almost always occur in adult patients who have never received a tetanus vaccine, or adults who have not been up to date on their 10-year booster shots.

Source: <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/do-adults-really-need-tetanus-booster-shots-2020051219786>

REJUVENATING THE OLD GNARLED ROSEBUSH

We've all seen them. They're easiest to see in winter when the leaves are all gone, but you can see them throughout the year; rosebushes with one, two, or three short basal canes, all thick and grey, often with old bark covering the thorns.

Because well-cared-for roses put out a lot of new growth, one of the ways to tell if a rose is happy is how many basal canes it has that aren't gray or gnarly. Ideally, our rose bushes should not have any gnarly canes. As the canes age, they should be removed so new basal breaks can occur.

If the older gray canes are not removed or new green canes are removed instead, we get the old gnarly grey rosebush that is struggling. Gnarly roses can hang on for years, putting out a couple of blooming shoots in Spring as a reminder of what they could be. Often these small flushes persuade us to 'let it be and see what happens next year.'

Unfortunately, unless something is done, next year will be just another step in the slow decline of that particular plant.

So, what do you do? That depends on your attachment to the plant and variety and the ease of getting another of that variety. If you're not attached to it, go ahead and replace it. If you are sentimentally attached to the particular plant, or like the variety but can't get a good replacement, consider rejuvenation, with the goal of causing enough new growth that the old barkly canes can all be removed over a few years. Or try to pro-rogate the rose.

The first steps in rejuvenation are to see if there's some underlying reason for the shortage of young growth.



Site Assessment

Does the site get at least 4, preferably 6 hours of direct sun per day? Is the plant getting enough water? Does the soil have enough organic matter, or is it hard-packed clay? Does the rose have to compete with tree roots or thick undergrowth of weeds or over-exuberant companion plants? If any of these situations exist, they need to be corrected in order for rejuvenation to work. It may be that the location itself just isn't right for roses. If so, you'll want to move the rose to a place that doesn't have those shortcomings or to a pot that you baby with nutrients and water.

Care Assessment

If you haven't already been feeding and mulching consistently, now is the time to start a routine. An easy routine is to put down some Osmocote Plus with minors or a good organic fertilizer and cover with 3" of compost/manure. Fertilization, consistent watering, and compost will encourage the rose to put out new growth.

Second, and this might be a little personal, is there even the tiniest possibility that you may have **inadvertently been removing the new growth?** New growth coming up from the base of the plant can look different than the established canes when it first comes out, especially compared to gnarled/gray canes, and you'd not be the first gardener to remove new basal breaks, thinking they were weeds or suckers. I have seen gardeners who do not understand how roses grow, remove those succulent new green canes in favor of the gray/gnarled canes in the false notion that this is the way to shape the plant.



If your tree rose looks like the one above, you need to eliminate one gray cane each year for four years. At which point there will be all new canes. During this process it is important to the plant gets adequate fertilizer and water which encourages new growth.

NEW YEAR ROSE RESOLUTIONS

Minor (major) Surgery

The best time to begin rejuvenation is in winter—since the plant will want to put out new growth (basal breaks) as the weather warms. My rule of thumb for the removal of gray/gnarled canes is one or two each year. If it is a grafted rose saw the canes as close as possible to the bud union. If the plant is on its own root, e.g. miniature, cut it down to the soil line.

Intensive Care

Your rose now needs special attention to be sure it gets what it needs; this is no time to stress the plant. Water heavily, make sure the mulch is on, and fertilize lightly. In a couple of months, perhaps sooner, you will see that most wonderful of things, new shoots coming up from the ground. Keep the water coming, and give a little more fertilizer. By next pruning, you'll have several new canes. Next winter, remove one or two more of the remaining gray/gnarly canes the next pruning. Eventually, in 2-4 years, you will only have new green canes.

This article describes what I did to rejuvenate my sister's 30+ year old rose garden. Now look at it—this picture was taken Thanksgiving 2021. This process took about 5 years. Three plants were shovel pruned but the rest came back. The first few years were difficult—determining which old cane should be removed first. Each subsequent year pruning has been easier.

I made sure that the plants had a good dose of fertilizer twice a year. And my sister made sure that manure/compost was added in summer. My sister has promised me, that she will keep me as her rose gardener.



BASAL BREAKS & NEW SHOOTS



What is a basal break? It is a new cane emerging from the base of the plant or from the ground for own root plants. It is very desirable as it yields the biggest flowers, presents lots of new bud eyes for new growth, and will replace older, worn out canes. For this reason, rose growers provide their roses with the best nutrients to force them into basal breaking after the rose is pruned.

For roses that are grafted, the basal break comes from the grafted union (union is the swollen area at the top of the shank). Any new growth that sprout from the ground are called suckers and should be removed. Suckers are not the original roses as they come from the understocks / rootstocks.

Care should always be taken not to disturb new cane growth. These shoots will grow very rapidly and are easily broken off by the wind or the rosarian. The loss of a basal break is an unhappy event for any rosarian. (I absolutely hate it (the air turns blue) when I break off a new basal cane when I am pruning)