

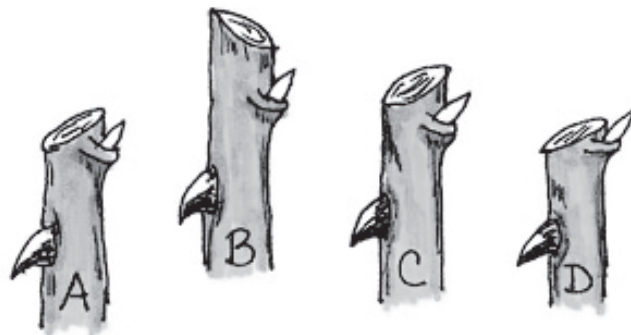
Rose Care & Pruning

Growing roses in the Washington area can be a challenge because of the summer heat and humidity, but it is definitely worth the effort. There is no other flower quite as beautiful as the rose. For the greatest success, follow these tips.

- * Select a site that receives at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight a day. Roses prefer a soil that is slightly acidic and mixed with organic material, such as Bumper Crop or Leaf Gro. After planting, mulch with a 2 to 3 inch layer of shredded bark to help keep the soil moist, maintain an even soil temperature, and eliminate weeds.
- * Roses need a constant supply of moisture - at least 1 to 2 inches each week. Water in the early morning if possible, and water at the base of the plant. Keep the foliage dry when watering to help prevent black spot. Soaker hoses are ideal for this purpose.
- * Roses are extremely heavy feeders and should be fed monthly during the growing season, beginning in March when they are first leafing out. Fertilization should stop in late August. When applying dry fertilizer, use 1/2 cup per plant, scratch it into the soil around the plant, and then water thoroughly. New systemic products also prevent insects and/or diseases while feeding at the same time and last up to 6 weeks.

Whether pruning or deadheading, the proper cut is important:

- A. The classical, correct cut
- B. Slants toward the emerging bud
- C. Cut too far from the emerging bud
- D. Cut too close to the emerging bud



Cut out any obviously dead wood first. Then, remove branches that grow toward the center of the plant to improve air circulation and admit sunshine. Locate crossing branches and remove the weakest one. Also, remove sucker growth, which is growth coming from the ground. Finally, prune to shape your plant. Hybrid teas and floribundas can be pruned 12 to 24 inches in height, leaving up to 9 to 12 large healthy canes. Old, shrub, and species roses should be pruned lightly, removing no more than 1/3 of the growth. Some rosarians add a dab of white glue to the cut. For more information, visit the American Rose Society's website:

www.ars.org.

Johnson's carries a large selection of hybrid tea roses, grandifloras, floribundas, shrub roses, carpet roses, climbers, tree roses, and the ever popular Knock Out Roses® for your landscape.

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