

1

ROSE PRUNING 101



NO FEAR.
It's easy!

ENJOY
♥



WHEN TO PRUNE



NEVER BEFORE 20 JUNE

When Winter Solstice gives longer days and better light for photosynthesis.



VERY COLD CLIMATES

Can prune end of June as plants remain dormant longer.



IDEAL TIME IN MOST AREAS

Around 15 JULY.



WINTER RAINFALL AREAS ONLY

End of July to not expose soft new leaves to rain and Downy Mildew infection.



PRUNING IN AUGUST

Can delay the spring flush by a week or two but is not problematic.

These dates are a guide.
Watch your plants and your weather.



YOUR TOOLS



FELCO 6

SHARP SECATEUR
Clean cuts heal best.



PIG SKIN GLOVES

Full forearm protection.
Strong. Comfortable. Built to last.



LOPPER

For thicker stems.



Sharpen and oil your pruning tools!



2

WHY PRUNE?



3
KNEE
HEIGHT
STEMS



1 large
water shoot
growing
strong and
outwards

1 strong
water shoot
growing
straight up



PROMOTE NEW
BASAL GROWTH
OR WATER SHOOTS
thereby rejuvenating
the plant.



PRUNING
ENCOURAGES
STRONG NEW GROWTH
and reduces the number
of flowering stems,
resulting in an increase
in eventual flower size
and quality.



MAINTAIN
THE SHAPE
OF THE BUSH
and keep the main
branches at
manageable height.



ELIMINATE
UNSIGHTLY,
SUPERFLUOUS
DEAD WOOD



WHAT ARE WATER SHOOTS?

Water shoots are strong, vigorous shoots that grow from the base of the plant. They help replace old canes and form the framework for future growth and flowering. They sprout from dormant eyes within the bud union.



3

UNDERSTANDING SAP FLOW



Shoots sprout from eyes like water bursts in a pipeline



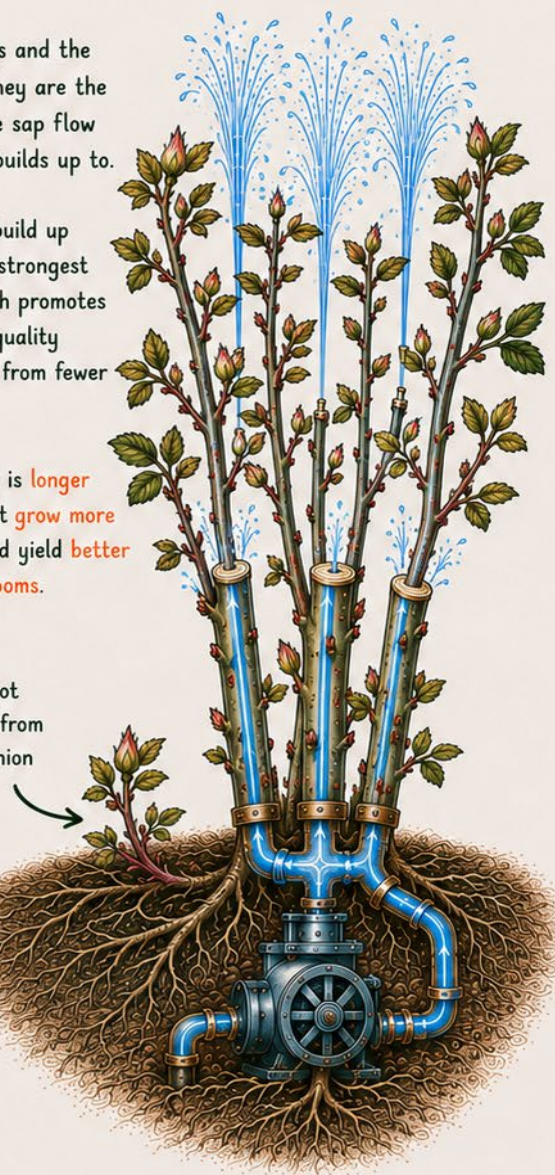
STRONG PRUNING FEW STEMS LEFT

Less stems and the shorter they are the higher the sap flow pressure builds up to.

Pressure build up activates strongest eyes, which promotes stronger quality sprouting from fewer "bursts".

The result is **longer stems**, that **grow more rapidly** and yield **better quality blooms**.

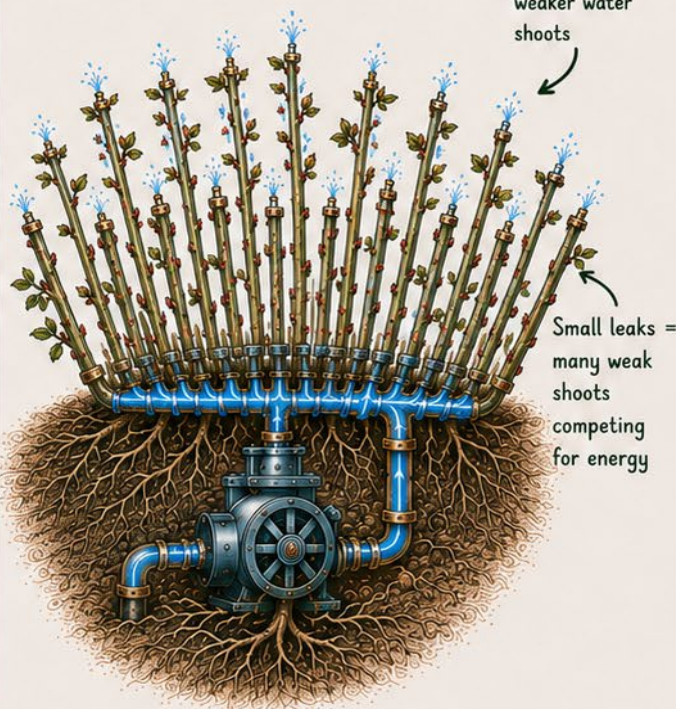
Water shoot sprouting from the bud union



LIGHT PRUNING MANY STEMS LEFT

- Sap pressure is divided amongst many more stems and therefore weaker
- Plant sprouts all over with far less vigour
- Shorter stems are produced
- Insipid blooms emerge

Smaller fountain leaks = shorter, weaker water shoots



PRUNE STRONG. GROW STRONGER. BLOOM BETTER.



4 THE PHILOSOPHY OF PRUNING ♡

Pruning is not destruction.

It is rejuvenation.



PRUNED

Short, simple and open.
The beginning of new growth.



8 WEEKS LATER

Neat shape, strong canes.
More blooms. More beauty.



1. SACRIFICE THE OLD

Remove old, weak and diseased wood.

♡ Energy is redirected into vigorous new growth.



2. INVITE LIGHT & AIR

Open the centre of the bush.

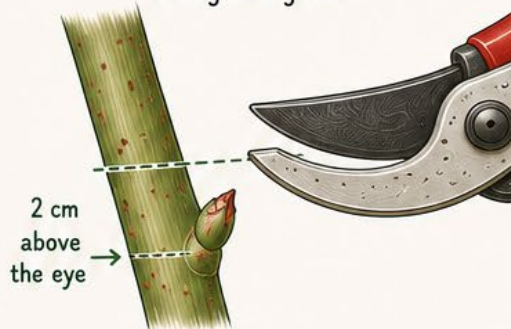
♡ Better sunlight, better airflow, fewer diseases.



3. DIRECT THE FUTURE

Every cut is an instruction.

♡ Prune just above an eye to encourage strong new growth.



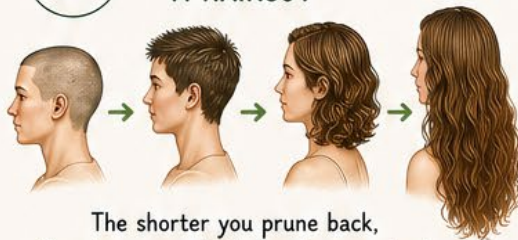
4. ROSES ARE TOUGH

Even heavily pruned roses are remarkably resilient.

♡ It's almost impossible to kill a healthy rose through pruning.



5. THINK OF A HAIRCUT



The shorter you prune back, the stronger and thicker it grows back.



Shorter cut = stronger regrowth = thicker canes = better blooms.



6. THE PLANT FEELS NO PAIN

Roses have no nervous system.

♡ Pruning does not hurt the plant – it helps the plant perform at its best.



PRUNE WITH CONFIDENCE.

You are not butchering the plant – you are shaping its future.



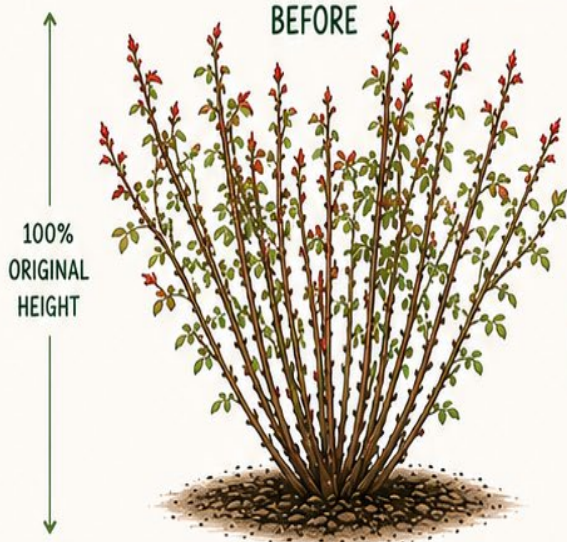
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HOW TO PRUNE

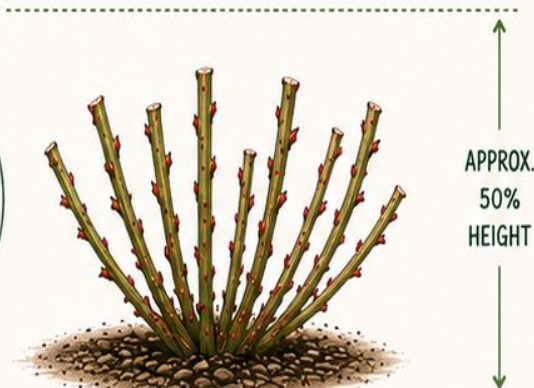


Begin by simply cutting every stem in half.
This lowers the entire bush and gives you a clear
overview of the structure.

BEFORE



PRUNED



1 OPEN THE CENTER

Open up the center to make
space for new water shoots.



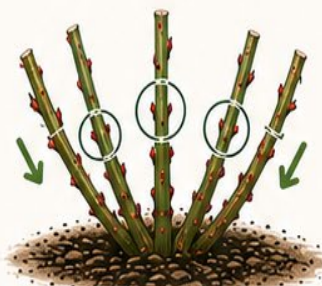
2 REMOVE UNWANTED WOOD

Remove crossing or rubbing
branches and any wood
thinner than a pencil.



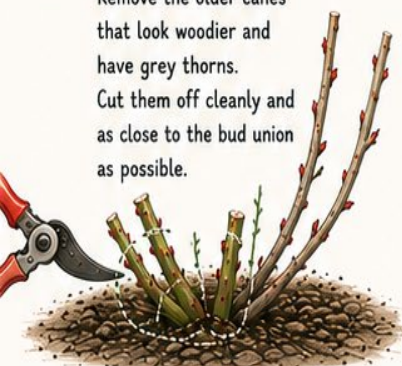
3 SELECT 3 MAIN BRANCHES

Select 3 main branches
that are the youngest –
you can tell by observing
that they have brown thorns.



4 REMOVE OLDER CANES

Remove the older canes
that look woodier and
have grey thorns.
Cut them off cleanly and
as close to the bud union
as possible.



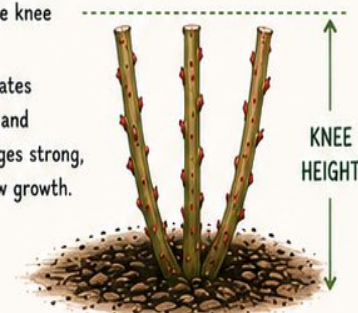
5 REMOVE SIDE BRANCHES

Remove side branches
and tines (small thin
branches that
will not produce
strong canes).



6 FINAL STEP

Cut the remaining
3 branches off at
the same knee
height.
This creates
balance and
encourages strong,
even new growth.



A well pruned rose is open, balanced and ready to grow.



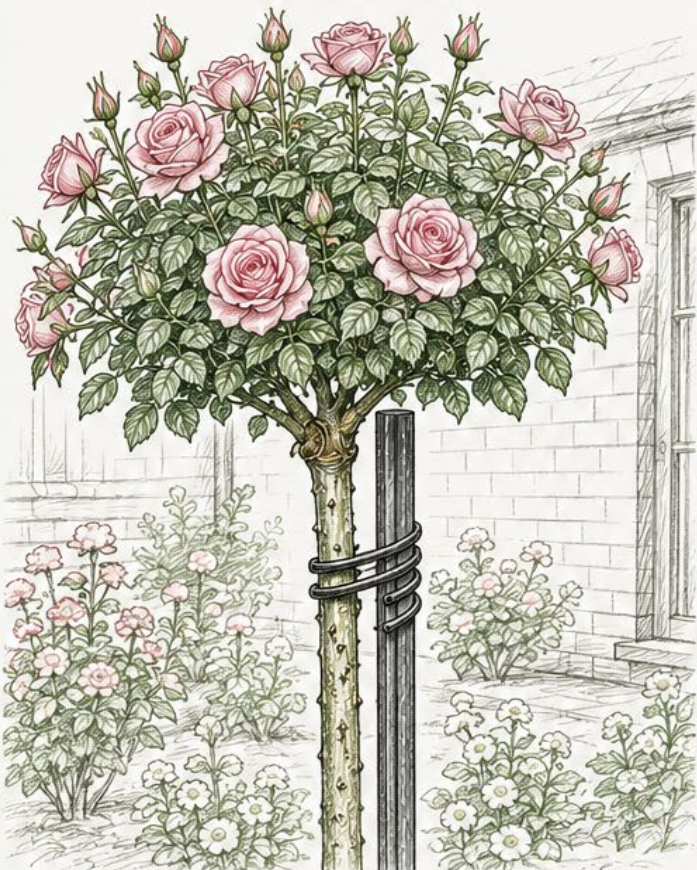


6. Standard Roses

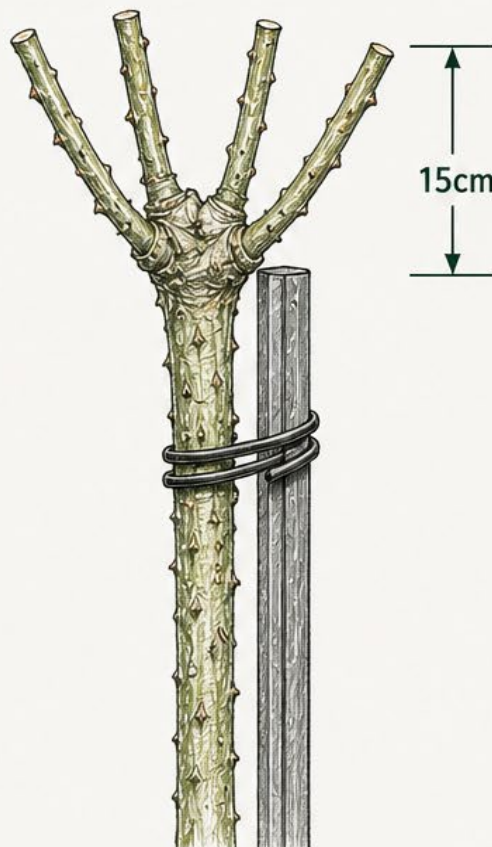
Keep them flowering and looking their best!



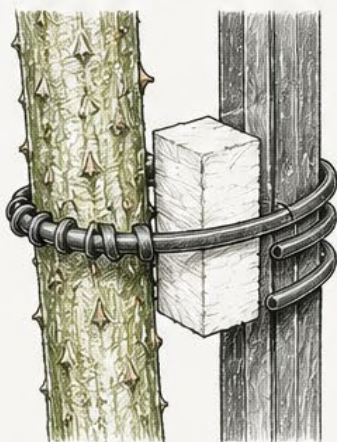
STANDARD ROSE IN FLOWER AND GROWTH



PRUNED STANDARD ROSE



1, 2 & 3. STAKE AND TIE FOR SUPPORT



- 1. Good time to check the stake and the ties.
- 2. Retie with a cable twist tie and put styrofoam wedges in between stake and tie.
- 3. Make sure nothing is cutting into them.

4. REMOVE SUCKERS



If anything is sprouting from the upright cane or main stem it is a sucker and needs to be removed deeply with a knife.
Slice down the side deeply – don't just cut it off.



Well pruned and well tied standard roses grow stronger, flower better and last for many years.



7. Ground covers and Miniature roses



Ground Covers

BEFORE

AFTER



Need to stay low and neat in shape



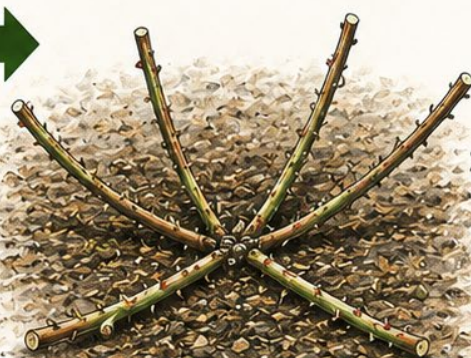
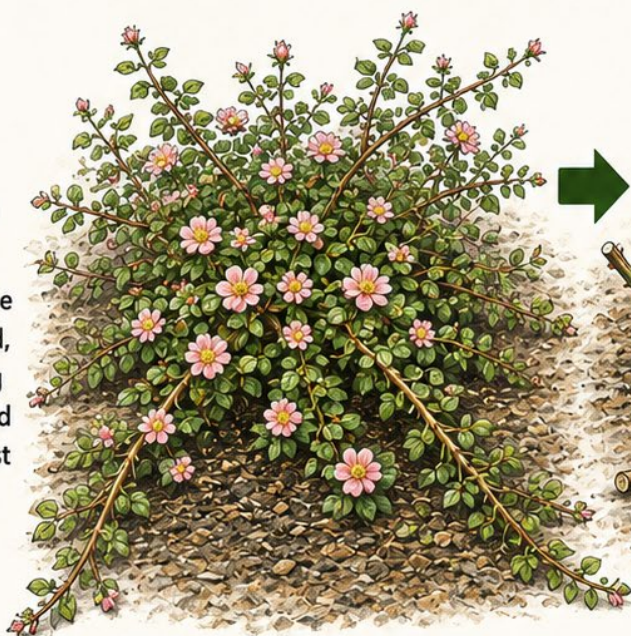
Cut all stems down to 20cm



Choose 4 of the brown thorned, fresher looking main stems and remove the rest



Same applies in a pot



Miniature Roses

BEFORE

USE HEDGE CLIPPER

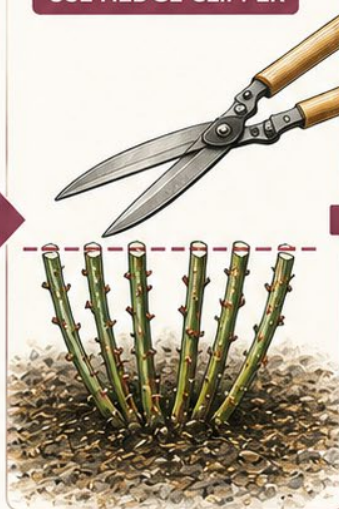
AFTER



Chop off all stems about 10 cm above soil level with a hedge clipper



Then cut out the ground shoots, leaving only four.



Prune well, feed well and water well – and your roses will reward you.





8. Free Standing Climbing Roses

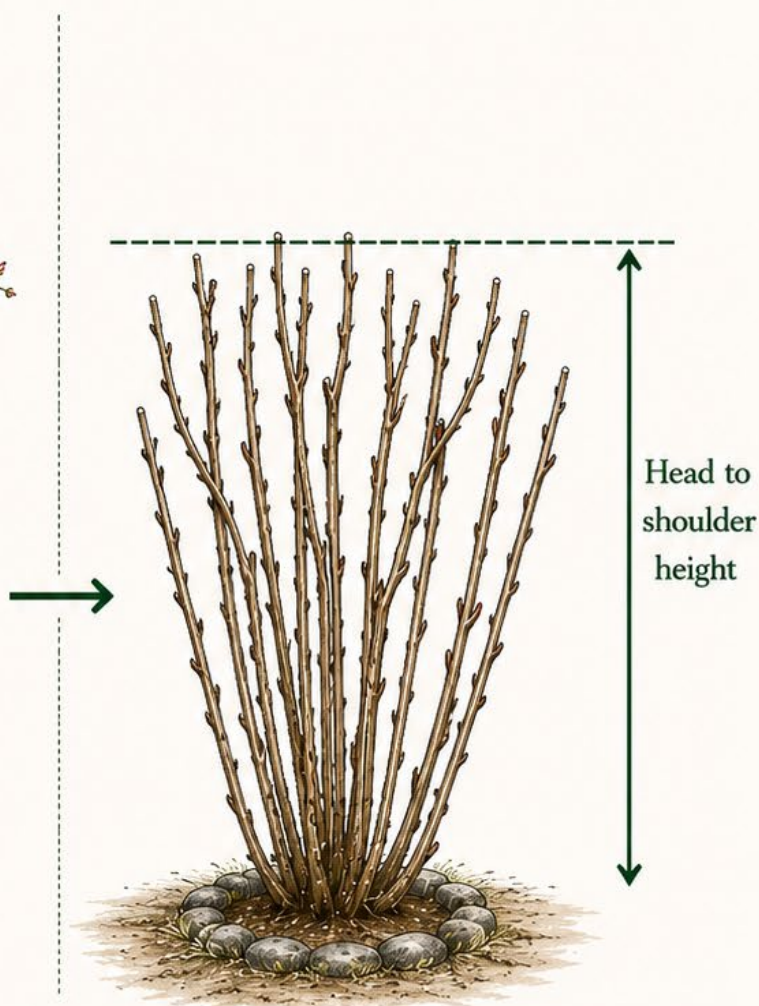


Climbers are never pruned right down as they would first need to re-grow before they flower. Free-standing specimens are pruned to head or shoulder height, depending on their size, very old woody stems that are not sprouting are cut out with a lopper and pulled out. The rest are left tall. All the leaves are removed after pruning.

Before pruning



After pruning



Very old, woody stems that are not sprouting are cut out with a lopper and pulled out.



TIP: Always remove all leaves after pruning. This helps prevent disease and allows the rose to put its energy into new, healthy growth.



9. Roses Trained Over an Arch or onto an Obelisk

Roses that are trained over an arch or onto an obelisk are not pruned back. Their canes are preferably woven and tied onto the structure. Use a soft, stretchable material such as plant ties to attach the canes.

Very old, woody stems that are not sprouting are cut out with a lopper and pulled out. The remaining canes are left tall.

Twigs and side branches are only cut back slightly to stimulate new sprouting and flowering. They are not removed.

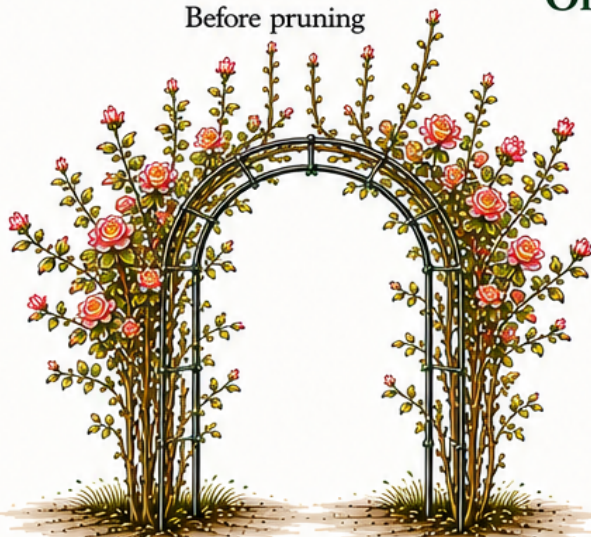
TIP:

Use a soft, stretchable material such as plant ties to attach the canes. This allows growth and prevents the ties from cutting into the canes as they thicken.

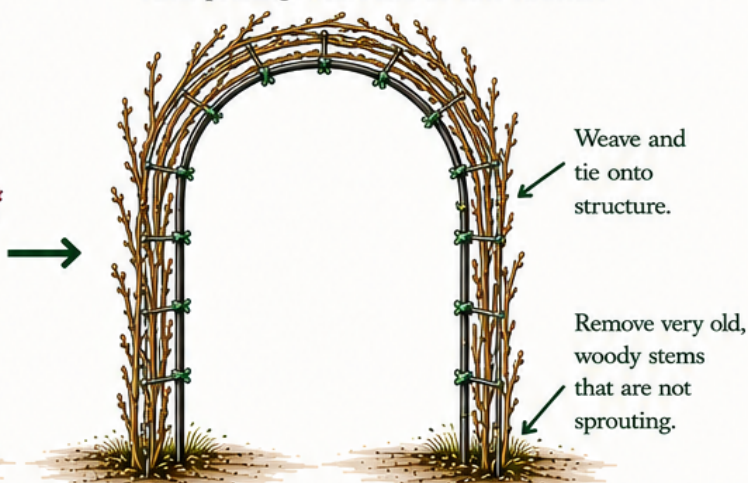


On an Arch

Before pruning

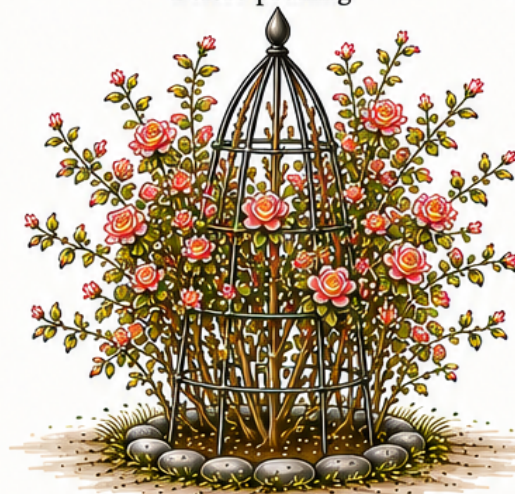


After pruning, weave and tie onto structure

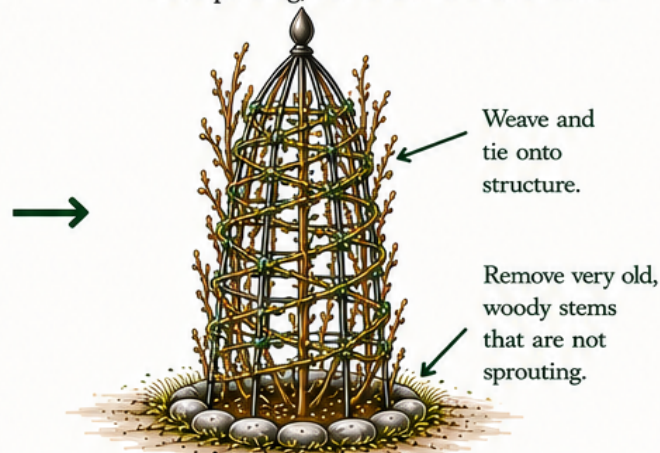


On an Obelisk

Before pruning



After pruning, weave and tie onto structure



GOOD PRACTICE: If you have the time and inclination, remove all the leaves after pruning. This helps the rose put its energy into healthy new growth in spring.

10. Espalier Climbers onto a trellis or against a wall

- 🌀 Roses trained onto a trellis or against a wall are espaliered.
- 🌀 Try and pull their long canes as horizontal as possible where space allows, weave and tie them down as this creates the best flowering.
- 🌀 The short branches on the main canes and their tips are cut back slightly to stimulate sprouting and flowering.
- 🌀 You can remove the old leaves to stimulate new ones.

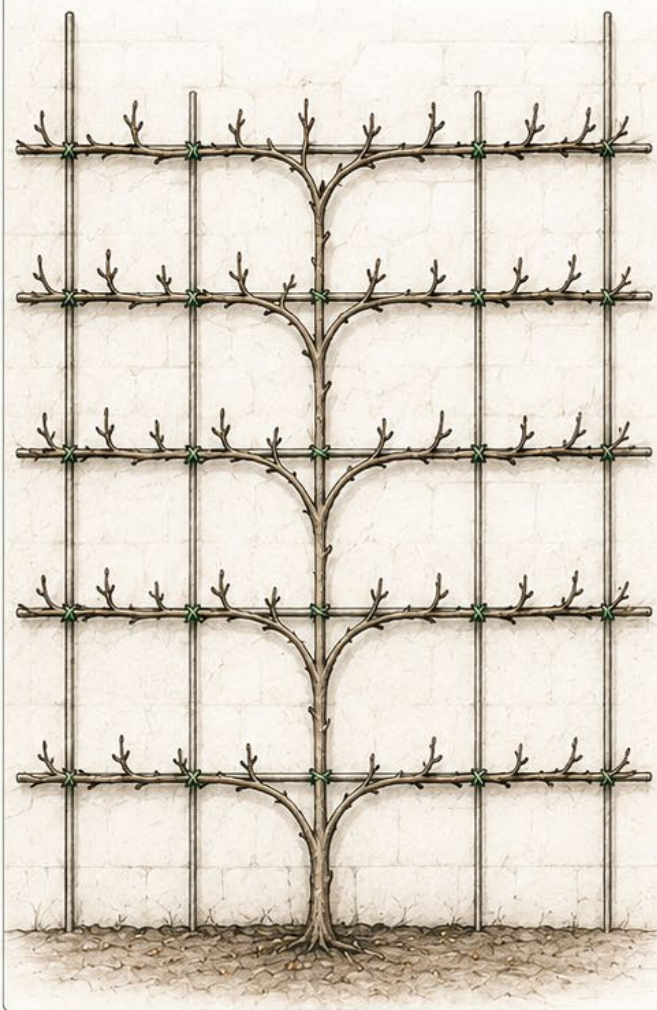
BEFORE

Unpruned



AFTER

Espaliered, woven and tied



WHY ESPALIER?

Espaliering saves space, creates a beautiful living feature and encourages strong growth and the best flowering.

11. loosening the soil and working in organics

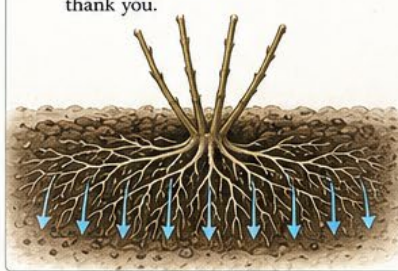
This is more important than pruning itself

- 🌹 Find someone with muscles and a fork and have them loosen the soil deeply a fork and a half deep right up to the rose.
- 🌹 Don't worry about hurting the roots, roots need air as much as they need soil and water, They will thank you.
- 🌹 If you had a layer of mulch work it in while loosening.
- 🌹 Only now spread a thick (the thicker the better) layer of compost and also add organics i.e. pine needles, peanut shells, bark chips anything that adds roughage and helps create air pockets.
- 🌹 Sprinkle 70g of Vigolonger controlled release fertiliser around the root zone.
- 🌹 Work this all in well by turning it nice and deeply and evenly over the area.
- 🌹 Stand next to your rose and if you jump up and down and it feels like a trampoline you have done a good job.
- 🌹 Add a layer of mulch (peanut shells, peach pips, apricot pips, pine needles, etc...).

- 1** Find someone with muscles and a fork and have them loosen the soil deeply a fork and a half deep right up to the rose.



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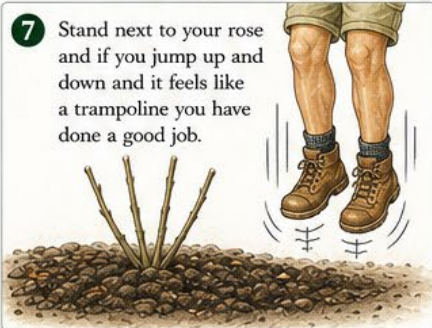
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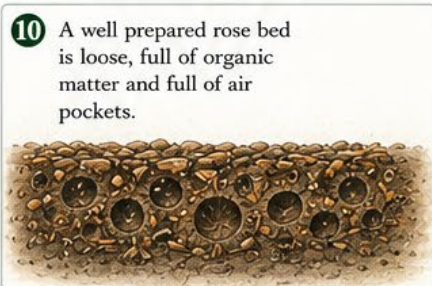
- 8** Add a layer of mulch (peanut shells, peach pips, apricot pips, pine needles, etc...).



- 9** Water it all in well.



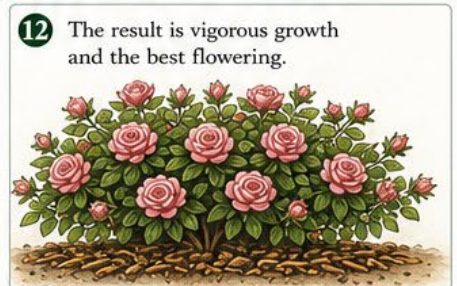
- 10** A well prepared rose bed is loose, full of organic matter and full of air pockets.



- 11** Happy roots = strong roses.



- 12** The result is vigorous growth and the best flowering.



Good soil, organic matter and air create strong roots ... strong roots create beautiful roses.

12. Watering, fertilising and spraying

SPRAYING

After pruning it is often said to spray with lime sulphur or other oil based products. This is not necessary unless you have scale on the stems. Loosening and working in compost will already have helped.

Then spray with Ludwig's Insect Spray at 100ml / 10l of water and after 3 days brush the scale insects off.



Spray at
100ml / 10l
of water



+



Then brush
the scale
insects off.



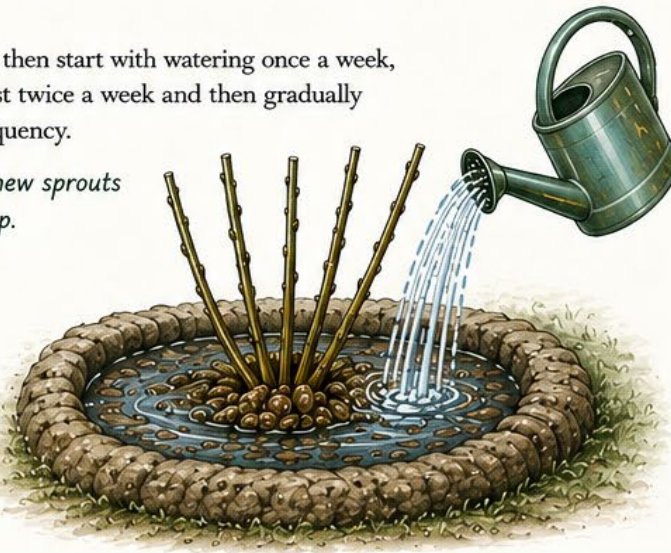
WATERING

Water well after pruning and then start with watering once a week, then from second week August twice a week and then gradually increase the quantity and frequency.

Remember watershoots and new sprouts need enough water to develop.

In summer per plant, we recommend 15 l a week.

Build a little dam reservoir around the plant and fill this or make sure your irrigation is effective.



Make sure your
irrigation is effective.



FERTILISING

If you have applied Vigolonger you can in August apply Ludwig's Vigorosa 5:1:5 at 30g a plant for normal roses and 2 x 30g measuring cups for climbers and then repeat every second month.

If you haven't applied Vigolonger controlled release apply Vigorosa every month till April.

Well nourished roses are healthier and far more vigorous then unfertilised.



30g per plant
for normal roses



60g for climbers
(2 x 30g measuring cups)



Repeat every second month.



NOW THAT THE PRUNING CHORES ARE DONE...

you can sit back, relax and watch your rose eyes swell, sprout, grow and flourish!

Good care now means strong, healthy roses and an abundance of beautiful blooms.