

WINTER ROSE PRUNING



Pruning Basics

- 1 Disinfect your pruning tools before pruning and after each plant you prune.
- 2 Remove older, broken, woody, diseased, or problem canes by cutting them at the point of origin or back to a strong cane. Leave healthy green canes larger than a pencil diameter (1/4").
- 3 Remove crossing canes less than 1/4 inch. Remove canes in the center of the plant for better air flow.
- 4 Cut cane to an outward facing bud to encourage growth away from the center, cut 1/4" above a bud.
- 5 Cleanup: discard cut canes and leaves from the plant and ground to remove any fungus, disease, and insect eggs. Discard debris into green bin, not compost pile.
- 6 Roses are forgiving. They benefit from any pruning, along with regular watering and feeding.



Cut too high

Cut too low

Correct cut

Image courtesy Gail Timble

Pruning Specifications

Hybrid Teas & Grandifloras:

leave 3-6 canes at around 12-18" tall

Floribundas:

leave 5-8 canes at 18" tall

Climbers:

Select 4-8 good canes. Keep the full length to cover the fence, arbor, or structure.

Old Garden Roses (Repeat Bloomers):

Bourbon, Portland, Tea, China, Noisette

Leave 5-8 canes at around 18" tall.

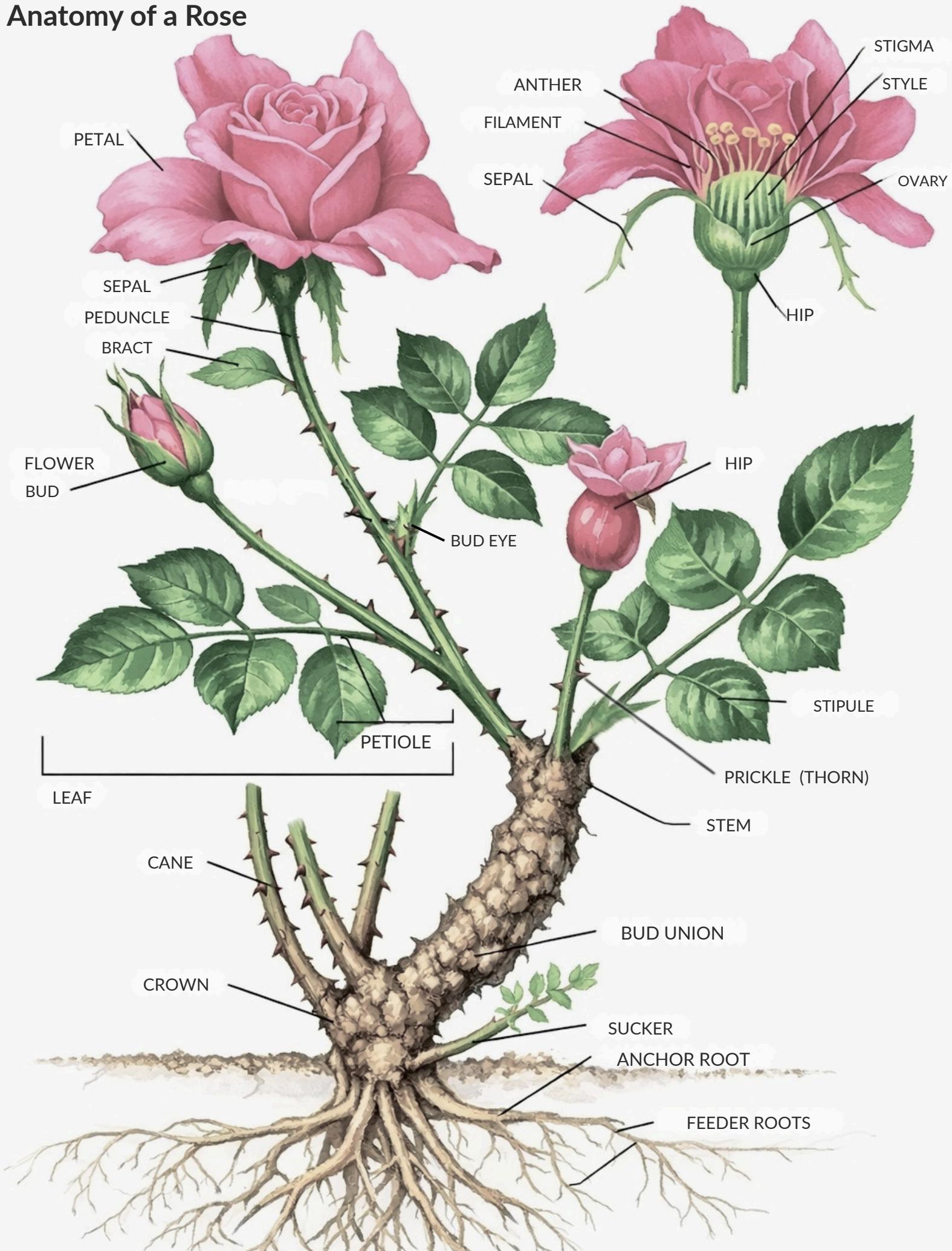
Old Garden Roses (One-Time Bloomers):

Gallicas, Albas, Centifolias, Summer Damasks, Species roses and ramblers

Prune in Spring AFTER blooming. Remove dead, broken, diseased, or problem limbs by cutting them at the point of origin or back to a strong lateral branch or shoot. This often opens the canopy sufficiently, requiring no further pruning.



Anatomy of a Rose



TOOL CLEANING STEPS

1

Soak and clean tools in soapy water (we like Dawn) to remove dirt, sap, rust, bacteria, and soil organisms.

Use scrub pads, steel wool, wet/dry sandpaper, and metal brushes to clean.



2

Dry tools, then sharpen beveled edge with sharpening stone or mill file. Push OVER blade in same direction, do not pull back.

Lay sharpener flat against the tool edge. Keep the bevel at same angle as when new. 6-8 long, even strokes across blade will refresh the edge.



3

Oil all moving parts between blades, nuts, and bolts using a high-quality 3-in-1 machine oil.

Machine oils are best. Non-machine oils like WD-40 can work in a pinch but they contain water (which can rust the tool) so be sure to wipe & dry well if using a non-machine oil.



4

Wrap sharpened, oiled blade in a towel. Store in a dry, protected area of shed or workshop to avoid dampness and dirt.

Sharp pruning blades make cleaner, safer cuts. It's also less fatiguing on the tool, thereby extending its life and accuracy when cutting.



5

A very rusted or dirty tool may need to be disassembled in order to properly clean and oil all parts.

Take a few photos of tool at several angles before disassembling it. Use them as a guide for when you are ready to reassemble it. Keep all parts in a small dish during cleaning so they don't get lost in the process.



2026 UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 3 & 10
JANUARY** **Annual Pruning Workshops:** January 3 & 10
9am-noon. Educational presentation; Hands-on pruning instruction.
- 19
FEBRUARY** **Q&A with our Rosarians.** February 19 | 6:30pm-8pm
Ask the experts all your rose growing/care questions. Interactive session with knowledgeable rosarians sharing practical advice on rose selection, care, pest problem-solving, seasonal tasks, and more.
- 19
MARCH** **Identifying Your Roses:** March 19 | 6:30pm
Inherited a rose garden in your new home? Gifted a rose without a label? Bring a stem/bloom with you (don't forget the leaves!) or a high-quality picture and our rosarians will help determine your rose variety.
- 16
APRIL** **Guest Speaker: Photographing Your Roses:** April 16 | 6:30pm
Marin County Rose Society Rosarian, Betty Mott, will present tips for capturing the beauty of roses, printing your images and framing them.
- 2
MAY** **59th Annual Rose Show:** May 2 | Entries 7am-9am; Viewings 1pm-4pm.
Complete Rose Show Guide and entry information at sonomaroses.org/spring-rose-show
- 18
JUNE** **Guest Speaker: Landscaping your garden with roses:** June 18 | 6:30pm
Join us for a presentation by a local landscaper on creating a new garden or reimagining an existing garden with roses as the main focus of the space.
- 16
JULY** **Summer Maintenance Tips for Rose Gardens:** July 16 | *Special time of 5:30pm
Hands-on instruction in the rose garden; bring shears and gloves!
- 20
AUGUST** **Member Summer Picnic:** August 20 | 1:00pm
Celebrate summer with Rose Society Members at our annual picnic!
- 17
SEPTEMBER** **Virtual Garden Tour:** The Lake District, England. September 17 | 6:30pm
Our Master Rosarian, Barbara Ellis, will offer a personal glimpse of her rose/garden tours of the region. Slide presentation with personal highlights of the trip.
- 15
OCTOBER** **Artistic Designs with Roses:** October 15 | 6:30pm
Led by RERS Co-President and Horticultural Judge, Martin Kooi. Learn the basics of rose design and how to create eye-catching displays.
- 19
NOVEMBER** **Fall Potluck Dinner/2027 Officer Installation.** Nov 19 | 5:30pm -8:30pm
Potluck-style Dinner to celebrate harvest and usher in the holidays.
- 9 & 16
JANUARY 2027** **Annual Pruning Workshops |** January 9 & 16, 2027
9am-noon. Educational presentation; Hands-on pruning instruction.

Programs held at Luther Burbank Art & Garden Center
2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95405 | sonomaroses.org | (707) 596-3110
programs subject to change, check website for most current schedule

