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## **ROSE PRUNING INFORMATION SHEET**

**The ideal time for pruning in Perth is July/August.**

There are two main reasons roses are pruned. The first is to regenerate the plant which means discarding as many old stems as possible and leaving young stems to generate lush new stems to produce abundant, quality blooms. Secondly pruning is done to ventilate the bush, allowing more light and air around the branches which reduces the instance of disease. This is done by removing all useless and misplaced wood.

First and foremost it is important to use the correct tools. If you don't have them already purchase yourself a quality pair of secateurs. If your roses are well established you may also need a pair of loppers and a pruning saw for cutting through the thicker stems. Please don't use a chainsaw or hedger – its messy and will not aide in proper plant regeneration. Ensure all blades are sharp, clean cuts to the stems are desirable as blunt tools will crush the stems allowing disease to protrude into the stem.

### **PROCEDURE**

#### **HYBRID TEA, FLORIBUNDA, MINIATURE AND STANDARDS**

Before starting to prune remember every plant is an individual and is pruned to what stems are available.

- 1 – Look and roughly select what stems you may want to keep – approximately 3 to 4 stems on the outer of the bush is ideal.
- 2 – Cut out all dead wood at its point of origin, removing all short, spindly and broken stems.
- 3 – Remove, at the origin all branches that cross through the center of the plant – remembering not to touch the branches you have chosen to keep. Your rose should start to resemble a bowl.
- 4 – Now remove all stems at the origin other than the 3 or 4 stems you have chosen to keep. Remember to eliminate as much old wood as possible, keeping mostly new stems.

5 – Shorten chosen stems to 25 – 40cm (12 – 18 inches) from origin, looking for an eye or node facing outwards. Cut about 1cm above the eye on a downward angle. We don't believe in the theory of cutting 2/3 leaving 1/3 as if the roses are above the eaves of the house it is useless pruning to 5 or 6ft! Irrespective of the growing height of the rose whether it be 50cm or 2.5m they should all be pruned to the same height.

6 – Remove any leaves that are still attached to the remaining stems, rake up and dispose of any surface rubbish giving the ground a chance to aerate. DO NOT MULCH ROSES IN WINTER! Dampness encourages disease! Mulching should be done from mid November.

7 – Spray all bushes and surrounding ground area with Lime Sulphur, Mancozeb or Bordeaux Copper Fungicide as these are the only products that are effective when there is no foliage present. Repeat the application 10 days later thus decreasing the recurrence of fungal disease on the new shoots. Remember fungicides such as Triforine or any ready to use sprays are not effective on bare stems and should not be used unless the roses are in full foliage.

8 – Apply a generous dose of animal manure at the end of August/Beginning of September, preferably cow manure as this creates the most ideal pH environment for the roses to flourish. Black Magic rose fertiliser should be applied in unison with the cow manure and then continued once/month until late April. Feeding of any kind should be ceased in May to slow the sap flow in readiness for pruning.

**NOTE – Climbing and Weeping** roses should never be pruned right back instead they should only ever be thinned out of any dead or spindly wood. If a climber has sent a stem somewhere you don't want it to go this can be cut off anytime of year. Long stems should be shortened slightly with some removed completely if there are too many. Climbing and Weeping roses flower off mature wood so if they are pruned too severely they will not flower the following season – instead they will try and re-establish themselves with prolific growth.

**\*\*\*TOP TIP\*\*\***

**A month after pruning (approx. mid August), 2 weeks BEFORE the application of manure give the roses a drench with a mix of 50mL seasol and 100mL rid-a-rot in a watering can. We have found this helps the roses build resistance to disease infection for the season. Try it for amazing results.**