

# Demystify winter rose pruning



**Different types of roses have different requirements for pruning.**

*If you don't know what type of rose you have, follow the 'first and foremost' section only. Where the type of rose is known, follow steps 1 – 3 of 'first and foremost', then skip to the instructions for each specific rose type. The good news is that roses are extremely tough and rarely killed by pruning!*



Flower Carpet Amber

## **First and Foremost:**

1. clean and sharpen your secateurs
2. prune in July (or August in cold areas)
3. remove dead, diseased, damaged and crossing over wood
4. where the type of rose is unknown, trim branches evenly to reduce the overall size

## **Flower Carpet Roses (and other ground covers)**

- trim with hedge shears in late winter or early spring
- trim back to 25cm from the base, or higher for a larger bush
- trim lightly during summer to maintain the shape of the bush

## **Modern Hybrid Teas and Floribundas**

- prune to leave 3 - 5 strong evenly spaced canes
- make angled cuts just above an outward facing bud, leaving 3 or 4 buds on each cane
- leave more canes and buds if a larger bush is required

## **Modern Climbers**

- tie canes in a fan shape, running the ends horizontally to promote flowering laterals
- after 3 seasons, trim laterals (growths arising from main canes) back to 3 outward facing buds
- established climbers: cut out the oldest canes and replace with new canes

## **Old Fashioned Roses**

- *light pruning is the best advice*
- newly planted: leave unpruned for 3 - 5 seasons
- established repeat flowering types: prune in late winter
- established once flowering types: prune after flowering in summer
- prune according to type i.e. shrub, climber etc

## **Old Fashioned Climbers and Ramblers**

- best left to their own devices, but:
- trim out damaged wood and train canes horizontally if possible
- tangled old plants: cut back to just above ground level

## **Shrub Roses**

- thin out a few main canes to open up the bush
- prune overall size back by  $\frac{1}{3}$  to maintain a large bush (1m +); or by  $\frac{1}{2}$  for a smaller bush

## **David Austin Roses (English Roses):**

- ascertain the natural shape of the bush e.g upright, bushy, arching, etc.
- prune as for Hybrid Teas or Shrub Roses depending on desired size and shape

## **After pruning**

*Spray rose bushes and the ground around them with copper spray, followed by spraying oil, ideally a week later, to reduce the risk of pest and disease problems next season.*



Hybrid Tea 'Sunline'