

## TYPES OF MODERN ROSES

### 1. Polyantha Rose

Introduced in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Plants are vigorous, many caned, & usually low growing to 3' tall. Small flowers (under 2") in large sprays provide mass of color. Almost everblooming. Plant about 2' apart. Five common varieties are Margo Koster, The Fairy, China Doll, Cecile Brunner and Perle d'Or.

### 2. Hybrid Tea Rose

Most popular class of rose grown today; outsells all other types combined. Thousands of varieties produced since 1867 introduction. Long blooming season. 3-7' tall plants that should be planted 2-3' apart. Large flowers (3  $\frac{1}{2}$  -5  $\frac{1}{2}$  ") produced one to a stem and accented by handsome foliage. Popular varieties today include Mr. Lincoln, Peace, Touch of Class, Brandy, Double Delight, and 100s of others.

### 3. Floribunda Rose

Cross between a polyantha and hybrid tea. Relatively short, plants are 2-3' tall. Several floribundas planted 2' apart make a good hedge. 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  -3  $\frac{1}{2}$  " flowers are borne in large clusters. Similar bloom shape to hybrid tea or somewhat flatter. Clusters are abundant and provide mass of color. More color selections of floribunda are available than for polyanthas. Selections include Iceberg, Angel Face, Showbiz, Sun Flare, and Intrigue.

### 4. Grandiflora Rose

Should be a cross between hybrid tea and floribunda, but sometimes extra vigorous hybrid teas are sold. Plants often grow 8-10' tall, so plant 6' apart and use as a background or barrier plant. Long blooming season with large clusters of 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  -3  $\frac{1}{2}$  " flowers or single blooms if a hybrid tea. Queen Elizabeth, Tournament of Roses, and Solitude are favorites.

### 5. Climbing rose

Two main categories: natural climbers and climbing forms of hybrid teas (or other bush roses). Both categories send out long canes that need support from walls, fences, trellis, etc. Some bloom repeatedly, others have one annual display. Plant at least 6' apart and away from other plants. Lady Banks, Blaze, Dortmund, and Cl. Cecile Brunner are popular. More colors are added each year.

### 6. Miniature Rose

A true rose with miniature canes, foliage, and flowers. Plant height ranges from 6"-3', but most are 12-18" tall. Require same care as other roses but are less picky about pruning than hybrid teas. Ever blooming, hardier than hybrid tea roses, and available in as many colors. Can be grown indoors in a bright, sunny, south facing window. Many new "minis" are developed each year.

### 7. Landscape or Shrub Rose

There have been many new releases of landscape shrub roses recently that have been specifically selected for use as flowering shrubs in landscapes. These ever bloomers have more disease and insect resistance and require less pruning than traditional garden varieties. Also there are fewer thorns, the flowers fall off on their own (less deadheading), and they are grown on their own root stock. Available in 3 growth forms: upright plants, mounding shrubs, and groundcovers.



This information courtesy of:

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## WHY PRUNE?

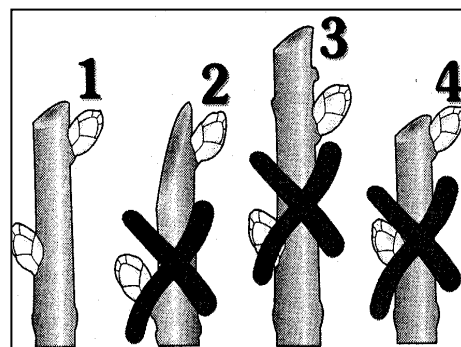
1. To produce larger flowers and invigorate plant and shoot growth.
2. To maintain plant shape and appearance.
3. To remove dead and diseased canes.
4. To encourage new buds to push at the base and renew the canes.

In general, the more severely a plant is pruned the fewer flowers it will have, but they will be of larger size.

## PRUNING HYBRID TEA AND GRANDIFLORA ROSES

1. Ideal time to prune is late in the dormant season, just before buds begin to swell.
2. Begin by cutting away all dead shoots and twigggy growth.
3. Next, prune off twisted and intertwined branches or canes.
4. Select canes and main stems to create a vase-shaped bush with an open center. Three to seven canes may be left depending on size and age of plant. An older vigorous plant can support more canes.
  - A. All canes should be healthy and vigorous.
  - B. Always try to keep 1, 2 and 3 year old canes on plant for best flowering.
  - C. Prune out older canes.

5. Shorten last season's growth by about one-third (and still have an abundance of large flowers).
6. Be sure that all cuts are just above a bud - neither too close or too far away. Ideal cuts are at 45 degree angle and parallel to the direction of the bud (refer to diagram).
7. Use sharp pruning shears to make a precise clean cut.



Proper pruning technique calls for the branch to be cut at an angle just above the bud, as in figure 1. Avoid such common mistakes as: cutting the branch at too sharp an angle (figure 2); cutting too high above the bud (figure 3); and cutting too close to the bud (figure 4). [Nick Gayton/Times-Delta]

## Common Rose Problems

**Aphids** - Tiny greenish to pink insects on terminals and buds. Check plants daily. When present wash off with water or insecticidal soap and keep ants off of bushes with sticky barriers or traps to improve biological control.

**Black Spot** - Appears as small black spots on upper sides of leaves. Yellow areas develop around spots and leaves may drop. Prune out and dispose of infected tissue. Remove fallen leaves. Fungal spores spread by splashing water. Black spot is usually not a problem in most of California. Several preventive fungicides help control it, but are not usually needed.

**Botrytis blight on petals and buds** - Affected plants have spotted flower petals and buds that fail to open, often with woolly gray growth (fungal spores) on decaying tissue. Sometimes a problem in spring and fall, but usually gone by summer.

**Mosaic Virus** - Leaves with yellowish to brownish rings, bands, or blotches on leaves, shoots and buds. Rose mosaic viruses are not spread by insects or pruning tools, but by grafting, budding or rooting cuttings from infected plants. If infestation is severe, remove plant, however damage is usually just cosmetic. There is no known treatment for viruses.

**Powdery Mildew** - White to gray powdery coating on leaves, tender stems, and flower buds leads to distorted growth and defoliation. Rose varieties vary greatly in resistance. Plants grown in sunny locations with good air circulation are less likely to have serious problems. Don't over fertilize. Fungicides or sodium bicarbonate plus horticultural oil help control it.

**Rose Leaf Curl** - Leaves curl or drop from new shoots and canes die from this virus. Tolerate or destroy infected plants.

**Rust** - Look for small orange pustules on leaf undersides. This disease is favored by cool moist weather. Avoid overhead watering and prune back infected canes. Low levels can be tolerated. During winter pruning remove and dispose of all leaves.

**Thrips** - Tiny, slender, yellow or black insects found within the blossoms. Petals can be streaked with brown and distorted. Thrips overwinter in debris so keep ground around plant cleaned up. Contact insecticide sprays can't reach thrips inside petals. Frequent clipping of old blooms reduces pest populations.