

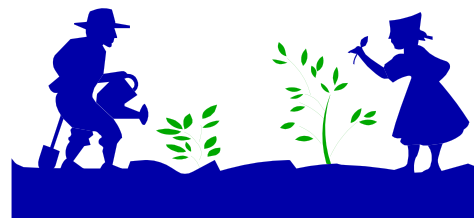


The Bonnie Briar Bush

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF

The Corvallis Rose Society

Affiliate of the American Rose Society



February 2012

www.corvallisrosesociety.org

NOTE: NO FEBRUARY MEETING OF CORVALLIS ROSE SOCIETY (CRS)

See Mark Your 2012 Calendars this issue.

EVERY PARK ROSE PRUNING WORKSHOPS

As President's Day quickly approaches, it is that time of year again. We will be doing our annual spring pruning at Avery Park Saturday, February 18th and 25th beginning at 9 A.M. Please bring your own pruning shears. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Hopefully with a good turnout, we can finish up on the 18th and not have to return on the 25th. Please invite non-members to participate in both workshops as an educational and membership recruiting activity. Experienced rose gardeners will demonstrate pruning techniques. We look forward to seeing you this Saturday. Thank you for your help.

THIS MONTH IN MY ROSE GARDEN: FEBRUARY

Here are some things to consider this month (though opinions may vary):

- **PARTICIPATE IN AVERY PARK PRUNING WORKSHOPS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 18th & 25th!**
- Check **BBB** back issues (February/March) for pruning advice: <http://www.corvallisrosesociety.org/newsletter.html>
- Prune from middle to end of month; if hard freeze occurs after, may have to re-prune die-back ends
- Continue to maintain good hygiene by removing weeds, leaves, and other debris
- Plant and transplant rose bushes
- If not done yet, check soil pH and add lime (calcium carbonate) or dolomitic lime (with magnesium) for pH closer to 7

COOL LINKS

Flowering Video: <http://player.vimeo.com/video/27920977?title=0&%3bbyline=0&%3bportrait=0href>

PowerPoint: Budding Roses/Propagating Hardwood Cuttings: <http://www.pnwdistrict.org/>, click on Rose Culture Articles

Roses And Everything About Them: www.roses-roses.com

Growing Roses: www.growingroses.org

Planting Roses: Tips and Tricks for Rose Planting: www.rose.org/planting-roses

2012 ROSE SHOW/CONVENTIONS

June 3	Tri-City Rose Society Show
June 7-8	Portland Rose Society Spring Show
June 9-10	Corvallis Rose Society Show
June 16-17	Fraser Pacific Rose Society Show
June 23	Ft. Vancouver Rose Society Show
June 23	SW Oregon Rose Society Show
June 23-24	Seattle Rose Society Show
June 23-24	Rainy Rose Society Display
June 30	Tacoma Rose Society Show
June 30-31	Spokane Rose Society Show
July 7-8.....	Olympia Rose Society Show
July 27-29.....	ARS Miniature Conference, Columbus Ohio
August 11.....	Portland Rose Society Mini Show
Sept. 15	Portland Rose Society Hosts the PNW District Show
Oct. 26-28	PNW District Fall Conference
Sept. 27-30	ARS Fall National Convention



Rainbow Sorbet HT

2012 Dues Reminder — Forms: www.corvallisrosesociety.org — CRS dues \$12.00 per household

CUTTINGS FROM OTHER BRIAR BUSHES

Excerpts from the Southwest Oregon Rose Society's January and February 2012 issues of *Rambling Rose*, Editor **Corrine Clifton**, in her regular column "In the Rose Garden".

January: It has only taken me 15 years to figure out how to garden during an Oregon winter. Work like crazy when the weather is dry and retreat indoors to read my Kindle when it is raining cats and dogs.

Using the above scenario, I took advantage of one of the driest Decembers in history to completely prune all 300+ roses, apply lime and corn gluten and start a few rose cuttings for the June rose show.

This year, I pruned most hybrid tea and floribunda roses pretty hard. Using my newest pruning tool, a battery-operated saw (Thanks Jim Seiwald — best advice for 2011) I was able to take out some of the largest, oldest canes with ease.

It is no fun to try to prune one of these roses like 'Gemini' or 'Livin Easy' which seems to put on a half-dozen new canes a year using the old-fashioned loppers and saws. The gardener looks like he or she is practicing some new form of yoga as he/she bends and contorts trying to remove one of these huge canes while trying to remain injury-free.

The battery-operated saw puts an end to all of that. You just push the button and the saw takes care of all the work. You just have to be careful not to cut off an adjacent cane or the bud union. This is a great tool for the gardener of advancing years with arthritis in hands or wrists or any other health condition which makes pruning difficult.

At the November meeting, Linnea McIntosh talked about how well she liked using corn gluten to prevent weeds from growing. I had tried it once and was not terribly impressed. But since she was so in favor, I decided to give it another shot. I spread it pretty liberally in my back garden and so far, so good. Will let you know in spring.

February: So far this has been a winter with only two weather forecasts — cold or rain/wind. What few minutes I had to spare in January were spent trying to get Pam Warner's roses pruned so that she could leave at the end of the month for England. Pam pruned her roses first and then I went through them and took off the old big canes with the battery-operated saw. We spent a lot of time really opening up the centers of her bushes.

It is important to realize that the more you clean out of the center of the rose bush, the more you lessen the chances for pests and disease. A crowded middle is the perfect hiding place for spider mites and disease to start. And in Pam's yard, because it is so warm in the summer, it is vital to give those bushes as much air circulation as possible.

In my own garden, I have been busy between wind storms with gusts blowing well over 80 mph and torrential rain. All of my roses have received their first dose of chicken manure and second application of corn gluten. Most of the weeds have been cleared and all of the lime has been spread.

Now, if the weather would cooperate I would like to get my first fungicide spray on the roses and then cover that with a good coating of **Moisturin**. That really helped with disease control last year and I had very little cane borer damage.

In February I hope to get down the alfalfa pellets and another dose of chicken manure. Before long it will be time to fertilize and before you know it there will be blooms all over again.

Exchange of emails after the January *Rambling Rose* published:

Earl: So Corrine, what was the brand (and rechargeable voltage) of your saw. And, was it made specifically for pruning? Great idea for us aging folks!!!!

Corrine: So Earl, the brand I bought was a Craftsman and it uses a 19.2 volt rechargeable battery. By the time you buy the saw and the battery and charging station, it is around \$200 but worth every penny. The 19.2 volt gives it enough power to cut through canes that are 1½ inches in diameter with ease. I did find that the harder you make the saw work, the shorter the time span between charges. For example, last week, I pruned roses at one of my friend's house. She has almost 300 roses and I had to charge the saw twice in 8 hours. However, make sure you get a charger that is a fast charge. Mine only takes about 45 minutes to an hour. That does affect the price but again, worth every penny. No this saw is not for pruning. It is the traditional cordless reciprocating saw that all carpenters use. Now, if you can use the corded model, the price is much cheaper but you have to be very careful not to saw through the cord. Does this help? (Editor's Note: An extra charger and battery would be helpful for longer running time.)

THE ROSE PRUNING GUIDE

The following is from www.ottoandsons-nursery.com/otto-culture.htm as adapted from the Ventura County Rose Society Newsletter, February 2007. (The Link is no longer operable.)

Coastal rose growers begin to prune their roses immediately after Thanksgiving. Most folks, however, will wait until the Holidays are over. Some of you, whose gardens sometimes experience freezing temperatures, may be waiting until early

February. Whenever you get it done, the pruning you do in this season will set the stage for healthy spring growth, long straight bloom stems, and a bounty of beautiful flowers.

Most of you will be pruning Hybrid Tea Roses. If they have grown tall, begin by 'topping' them down to about three feet in height. Clear away dead leaves and other trash from around the base of the plant, and check the bud union carefully for signs of crown gall or other disease or damage. Look for 'suckers'. Suckers are canes which spring from the rootstock, rather than from the bud union. Suckers will not be in bloom at this time of the year, and their foliage is usually rather different in appearance from the rest of the plant. Follow such canes carefully down to their point of origin below ground before cutting them away.

Your best blooms next spring will come from healthy, sturdy new growth. Old wood, grey and dry-looking, is near the end of its productive life. Such canes should be removed, leaving the plant to support three or four of its best new canes. Ideally, the new canes should be growing up and slightly outward in a 'vase' shape. Remove the old canes flush with the bud union. Avoid leaving stumps on the bud union. These will become hard and woody, and prevent the emergence of new canes. When that happens, your rose bush will bloom less and less, and finally should be replaced.

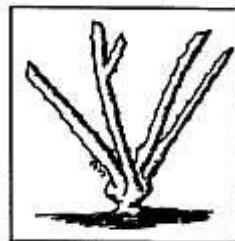
Cut away all growth that is diseased, damaged, or dead.

Now you must decide what you want from your roses in the coming year. Do you plan to show your roses? Or, do you want to fill vases with armloads of long-stemmed blooms? In either case, you want to prune fairly hard. Leave behind no lateral growth.

Even if you never cut your roses, and are aiming for a bountiful garden display, you should remove all growth that is smaller than the diameter of a pencil.

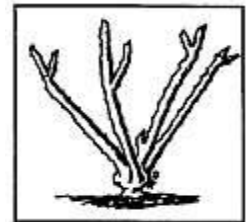
Severe Pruning

A severe pruning yields fewer (but larger and finer) blooms. This approach to pruning encourages the growth of long stems.



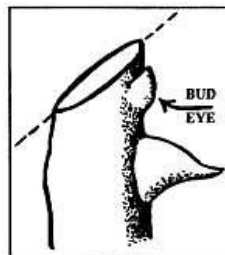
Moderate Pruning

This more gentle approach to pruning will produce greater volume of bloom. Stems will be shorter, however, and the individual blooms will most likely be smaller.



Your completed pruning job should produce a rose plant no more than 2- to 4-feet tall, with no remaining foliage. Take into account the natural growth pattern of the plant you are pruning. In Southern California, some Hybrid Tea Roses grow as much as ten feet in height. Others, with a more spreading growth habit, may never achieve more than three feet of growth.

The final pruning cut at the top of each cane should be made approximately 1/4 inch above an outward-facing bud eye.



Make pruning cuts at a 45-degree angle, as shown here.

Housekeeping is vital

Remove dead leaves, fallen blooms, and other debris from your rose beds. Such trash harbors insect eggs and fungal spores.

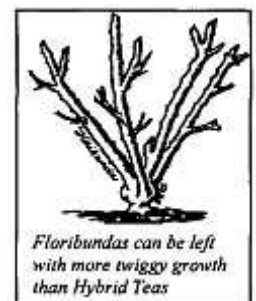
Remove remaining leaves from the plants, prior to spraying.

Pruning Those 'Other' Roses

The pruning guide above provides a basic primer on pruning the average Hybrid Tea Rose. Many of the questions asked at pruning demonstrations, however, concern pruning techniques for Shrub Roses, Old Garden Roses, Floribundas, Miniatures, and—the greatest bugbear of all—climbers. The truth is that, once you have the basic technique down pat, you can easily transfer your pruning knowledge to all of those 'other' roses.

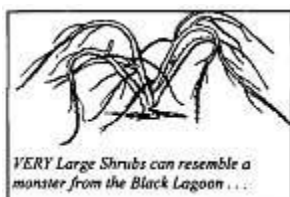
Floribundas, for instance. They're even easier than Hybrid Teas. Follow the same guidelines, (remove all dead, damaged, or diseased growth) but prune more lightly. Most Floribundas dislike harsh pruning.

Forget that 'smaller than a pencil' rule, and leave your Floribundas some of their twiggy growth. When you're done, the center of the plant should be opened up, and no leaves should remain.



Floribundas can be left with more twiggy growth than Hybrid Teas

Shrub & English Roses scare the willies out of folks who aren't used to them. Don't let them frighten you! If they are small and twiggy in growth habit, prune them like Floribundas, and you'll do just fine. If they're moderate in growth, think of them as Hybrid Teas, and prune them on the moderate side. Once again, you should leave no leaves.



VERY Large Shrubs can resemble a monster from the Black Lagoon . . .

Most of the Shrub Rose queries we receive center around the really big cultivars. How does one tackle a rampant 'Graham Thomas', or a gigantic 'Evelyn'? There are several answers to this question.

You might choose to whack these very large shrubs off ruthlessly, bringing them down to a modest 3-1/2 feet in height. We have done this, and the result is a satisfactory spring bloom. These roses are determined to get big in our climate, however. Following their spring bloom, it has been our experience that they hunker down and grow like crazy, shooting for the sky, flopping in every direction, and forgetting, for the most part, to bloom.

Another approach with these roses is to simply treat them as climbers. Pull their canes out horizontally along a fence, or wind them around a rough 'teepee' of three poles. In either case, the result is an increase in the number of bloom-carrying lateral breaks. We see more repeat bloom using this method.

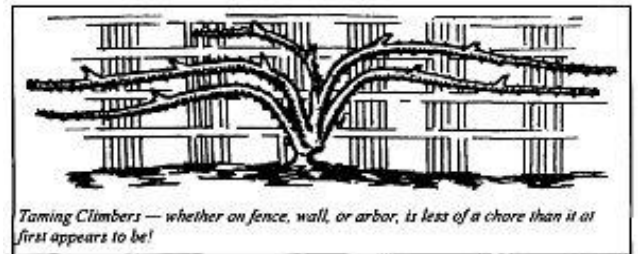
A third approach to the large shrub roses is 'self-pegging', which we have found to be effective. Remove most lateral growth, and snip off the final, thin, few inches of each cane. Pull the tip of each long cane down and inward. Using that soft, flexible, green garden tape, tie the end of each cane to its own base, or the base of a neighboring cane. The result will be a rather pleasing 'pincushion' shape which will be covered with bloom in the spring.

If this method doesn't give you a good spring bloom and a satisfactory repeat—consider removing the offending rose. Replacing it with something willing to bloom should lower your stress level considerably.

Old Garden Roses shouldn't be any more of a challenge. If they're small and bushy, (Chinas, and most Teas) treat them more or less like a Floribunda. If they're large and pushy (Hybrid Perpetuals come to mind!) you can prune them like a large Hybrid Tea Rose. Some Hybrid Perpetuals and most Bourbons fall into the same growth category as very large shrubs, and should be treated accordingly.

As for Once-Blooming Old Garden Roses—leave them alone! If you didn't prune your once-bloomers last summer—after they finished blooming—you've missed the boat for the present. If you prune them now, you will remove next spring's bloom. What's that you say? They're growing out into the pathways and blocking the gateway? Well, in that case, they leave you no choice. Whack off the offending canes. It has been our practice to dormant spray the few once bloomers in our garden, along with everything else. Removing all of their foliage beforehand is impractical, but the dormant spray will eliminate much of it. Be sure to go back later and rake up the fallen leaves.

That brings us to Climbers. They're easier than they look. For the first few years, Climbers need little pruning- It takes most of them three years or more to approach a stage of maturity which warrants pruning. When the plant has matured, assess the main, or basal, canes and remove at the base any which are diseased, dead, or damaged. Lateral canes smaller in diameter than a pencil are best removed right down to the main cane. Larger laterals might be cut to about 4 bud eyes in length. Remove any remaining foliage, re-tie the canes where needed, you're done!



Miniatures? Miniature roses are easy. They're growing on their own roots, remember—one successful pruning strategy has been to prune them with a lawnmower. Too drastic for you? OK. Try THIS rule of thumb: If it grows like a little Hybrid Tea, prune it like a little HT. If it grows like a little Floribunda, prune it that way. If it is a Miniature Climber, it will appreciate being treated like its larger counterparts.

That's it...pruning in a nutshell. Thanks to Jeri Jennings.

Dormant Spraying

This is the final task of pruning time, and it is a vital one. Dormant spraying should be done immediately after pruning. If you feel lazy, and decide to wait for a few days, you may find that new growth has begun to emerge before you get 'A Round Tuit'. Your dormant spray will damage that tender new growth, setting your plant back, and possibly resulting in deformed growth.

A thorough dormant-spraying offers you your best chance for control of the various fungal diseases that plague roses: powdery mildew, rust, blackspot, insect pests, even downy mildew—all can be reduced by a careful dormant spraying.

Volk or Dormant Oil sprays and Lime-sulfur sprays are available at our nursery, and they are very reasonably priced. These materials are usually formulated for combined use. They may be safely used on roses now, while there is no foliage to be damaged. Spray each rose plant thoroughly, and spray the ground around it, as well.



Example Cuts (from the web)



Truisms of Spring Pruning

The following is from the February 2007 *Portland Rose Chatter* newsletter of the Portland Rose Society, edited by Rich Baer.

- The bush with the deadest leaves still on it has the most thorns.
- No matter what diameter your pruners are rated for, the cane that needs to be cut is wider.
- Where ever you think your feet should go, it is usually on top of a newly emerging bulb.
- You can get thorns embedded in the top of your head. Also in other parts of your body that you would not normally expect to find thorns.
- Thorns can't penetrate goatskin gloves, but pruners can.
- The smallest, rarest, most hard to find rose in your garden is the one you will step on, fall on, drop your pruners on, etc.
- The most perfect cane on the bush accidentally gets cut while you are removing the old cane next to it.
- Neosporin is your best friend, so is Advil.
- If you are on the top rung of a ladder pruning a climber, the right place to cut is where you can reach.
- What looks like a good job varies by the time of day.
- When you drop your pruners, it is better to be wearing shoes than flip flops.
- Time does indeed standstill, and then it realizes its mistake and promptly accelerates from morning to dinner time in one fell swoop.
- Bloodstains come out with peroxide.

Tetanus

Just a quick reminder, if your tetanus shot isn't up-to-date, you should see your medical provider about a booster shot before you begin to work in the garden. It's almost impossible to prune and plant roses without getting scratched and dirty - even the most careful gardener runs the risk of a major infection.

At any rate, if you do get an infection that doesn't heal within a couple of weeks, go to the doctor. It could possibly be rose thorn disease (sporotrichosis), which is treatable, but the treatment goes much better the earlier it begins.

☑ Mark Your 2012 Calendars

February 18, 2012..... PRUNING WORKSHOP — AVERY PARK ROSE GARDEN
 February 25, 2012..... PRUNING WORKSHOP — AVERY PARK ROSE GARDEN
 March 19, 2012..... MEETING — TBA

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