



# TIPS FOR PRUNING ROSES

NORTH & CENTRAL FLORIDA GARDENERS PRUNE ROSES IN LATE FEBRUARY  
FOR BLOOMS 8-12 WEEKS LATER



## *Climbers:*

Train the main canes to grow horizontally on the trellis using loose zip ties. These canes grow vertical shoots that produce flowers. Once trained, the vertical shoots pointing upward are cut back to 2-3 buds each year, while the shoots growing downward or away (horizontally) from the trellis are completely removed. If the main canes have been trained onto an arbor, reduce the side branches so they are no more than 4-6 inches in length after pruning. Always remove main canes that are dead, diseased, or injured due to crossing/rubbing. As needed, retrain main canes to grow horizontally or remove older canes to reduce crowding of canes.

## *Non-Climbers:*

Major yearly pruning consists of shortening main canes and lateral branches, and removing twigs and canes that are dead, diseased, injured, or spindly. Leave at least half the length of each main cane that is 1-3 years old. Shrub-type roses can be cut back by 1/3 to 1/2 their original size each year to remove old spindly growth and promote flowering, as needed.

## *Sanitation*

After the winter pruning, remove all leaves from the plants, and rake the area beneath the bush to remove dead and diseased leaves that have fallen during the year. Re-mulch immediately to create a barrier between the plant and the fungal spores on the ground to prevent re-infection.

