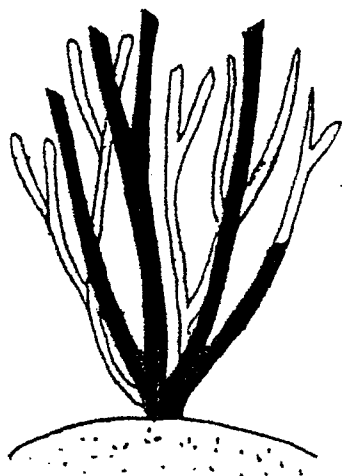


THE TOP TEN LIST FOR PRUNING ROSE BUSHES

1) Prune in early spring when the growth buds along the canes begin to swell. This is about the time the forsythia comes into bloom. Do not prune once-blooming roses until after they have bloomed.



2) Remove all dead, diseased and twiggy growth. Check for suckers, which is growth from below the bud union. Remove them at their point of origin.

3) Open up the center of the bush by removing all branches that cross through the center. Remove all non productive canes at the base to promote growth of new vigorous canes.

4) Prune each remaining cane to a healthy bud eye, removing approximately 1/3 to 1/2 of the length. Prune high to get more but smaller blooms. Prune low to get fewer but larger blooms.

5) Use the scissor-action pruning shears that have a curved steel cutting blade. For heavier pruning use the scissor-action loppers or a small pruning saw.

6) Pruning cuts should be made at a 45° angle approximately 1/4 inch above an outward facing bud eye.

7) Cut to a bud pointing in the direction you want the branch to go. The top bud will usually produce the dominant shoot.



8) When making a cut, look at the center of the cane. If the center (pith) is brown, cut lower on the cane until the pith is white.

9) Seal cuts larger than a pencil with Elmer's glue or clear nail polish. This prevents the entry of cane borers.

10) After pruning, remove any leaves that remain on your rose bushes. The rake up and discard all old leaves since insect eggs and some disease spores may be carried from one year to the next on old or dead rose leaves