

# ROSE CARE

SPRING TO FALL

Redwood Empire Rose Society



## Deadheading in early summer

*A light pruning and shaping (deadheading) will improve the appearance of your roses and encourage further blooms throughout the growing season. Prune repeat bloomers in June/July or after your region's spring flourish if blooms has faded and died off. For a one-time bloomer, cut back and shape after the spring bloom; this will be its one and only prune per year. Don't forget to clean and disinfect pruning tools before cutting, and again when switching plants to prevent disease transfer.*

**Repeat Bloomers:** Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Floribunda, and repeat Climbing varieties.

- Prune the cane 1/4 inch above an outward facing five-leaflet leaf.
- Keep half the cane length, the remaining leaves help cool the canes on hot days over 85°F.
- Over-pruning during the growing season will cause cane die-back and weaken the canes.
- Discard cut canes and leaves from the plant and ground to remove any fungus, disease, and insect eggs. Discard debris into green bin, not compost pile.

**One-Time Bloomers:** Old-fashioned, heirloom climbers (alba, gallica, damask), and ramblers.

- Remove dead, broken, diseased, or problem limbs. Cut back at the point of origin or back to a strong lateral branch or shoot. This opens the bush to better airflow and less disease.
- For climbers: remove crossing, rubbing, or long branches. Cut side shoots back to 2-3 inches.
- After the summer pruning, the new growth will be the blooms for the following year. \*Do not winter prune as you will remove the coming year's blooms.\*
- Discard cut canes and leaves from the plant and ground to remove any fungus, disease, and insect eggs. Discard debris into green bin, not compost pile.

## The rest of the year

**Water:** Encourage root growth further down into the soil by watering deeply and less often. Put in a drip irrigation system. If it gets too hot, increase watering.

**Mulch:** Keep the soil surface cooler, discourage weeds, and add nutrients. Use compost or planting mix around the base of the plant, about 2-4 inches deep, and not covering the bud union.

**Fertilize:** May to October with alfalfa pellets, organic compost, bone meal, or any fertilizer. Stop fertilizing in late October to prepare the roses for winter "dormant" pruning.

**Disease & Insects:** Remove and discard leaves with evidence of disease (Rust & Black Spot). For powdery mildew, spray with a baking powder spray. Pick off or squish insects; discard into the green bin, not the compost pile.

**Suckers:** Remove rootstock suckers originating from lower bud union and main canes. They grow fast, tall, and look different from your variety. Rootstock will weaken the budded variety if allowed to grow.