



A Publication of the Bowling Green Rose Society

# Rosebuds

Meeting:  
March 8  
WCEO—2 pm  
Program: Spring Pruning  
& Fertilizing Roses  
Refreshments:  
L & J  
Gibson

March 2020

E-mail: [bgrs@twc.com](mailto:bgrs@twc.com)

## Spring Pruning from Heirloom Roses website

Rejuvenate roses with a hard annual pruning. Prune to shape and clean out dead wood, and worn out, weak, spent canes. Spring is the time to correct problems with overall form, or reduce the height of roses that are outgrowing their space. Most roses bloom on new wood, and tend to have reduced bloom on old canes. Let the "Rule of Thumb" be your guide: New growth about the diameter of your thumb make the best canes. If the branch is bigger than your ordinary loppers can tackle (1-1/2 inches or larger), it should be removed.

For most rose bushes, leaving 6 to 8 strong healthy canes is ideal to produce a full shapely plant, without overcrowding. Floribundas or shrub roses tend to have more branches by nature, so you may want to leave more canes on those types of roses. For most roses, spring pruning should reduce the overall height of the bush to 18 to 24 inches. The shorter you prune, the fewer blooms you will have, but the blooms will be larger. Leaving taller canes will produce smaller blooms in more abundance. Remove all dead, damaged, and diseased canes, crossing branches, and thin so the bush is open and ready to accommodate new growth.

Spring pruning is really dependent on the weather. Most people in the Pacific Northwest prune their roses in either late February or early March. California growers typically "spring prune" in January. Midwest patrons may have to wait until early May. Keep an eye on your plants and the temperatures; time your pruning just as the new growth starts. You generally don't want to prune if there is still a chance of a hard frost, which would damage the tender new growth. If new growth is damaged by temperatures below 25 degrees, you may have to re-prune shorter, but this shouldn't happen very often.

### spring pruning

\*all dead/diseased wood removed

\*old wood retired to invigorate plant

\*6-8 strongest canes selected for new season's growth

\*overall height reduced to 18-24"



### Spring Rose Pruning:

Remove all dead or diseased wood. Retire old wood to invigorate the plant. Select 6 to 8 of the strongest canes for the new season's growth, Reduce overall height to 18 to 24 inches.

Remove interior and crossing branches to promote good air circulation through the center of the rose bush.

(continued on page3)

### spring pruning



interior and crossing branches removed to promote good air circulation through center of rose bush



## President's Corner *by Ricky Lockhart*

It's getting close to spring and I'm anxious to get in my rose gardens. The rain has made it difficult to get some things done. I want to improve on some of my beds. It looks like I've lost some roses to that early cold spell in November.

Bob Jacobs knee surgery went well. Hope he is up and going soon. We have some new members and some who have decided not to return to the society. They will be missed. I hope all that can will come and support our rose show in May.

We have some roses to sell that were donated to our society. Bob, Dan and myself potted them and they are at Bob's on the back patio. They look good.

It's time to get spray materials bought, decide on fertilizer and replace roses that were lost. Plan ahead on what you want to do so when spring arrives you are prepared to get a good early start.

I will do a program on cutting back and selecting buds for the March program. Bob will do a program on rose photography in April for those who missed the last one and wanted more information.

Hope to see everyone at the March meeting on the 8th.

## Our sympathy to the Lockhart Family in their recent loss.



## March in My Rose Garden *by Mary Ann Hext, CR*

With our early snow and temperatures in the teens in November and the inches and inches of rain since then, I have seen some damage to my canes above the cover, but below still seems to have survived. However, I have lost one rose in a pot in the garage due to aphids even though I have sprayed them monthly.

Some of the things I am doing now and planning to do in March are:

1. Spraying my bushes with lime sulfur. I have not done this for the past two years, but will this year to see if it helps with blackspot.
2. Checking my pH in my various beds and pots and adjusting as needed.
3. Reading the latest issue of "American Rose".
4. Completing my orders for roses and fertilizer from the Nashville Rose Society's vendor night.
5. Waiting for new roses that I ordered to arrive in April.
6. Sharing information about roses with members of my society and garden club.
7. Waiting for warmer weather to start getting rid of weeds and limbs in my rose garden and yard. On the advice of a rose friend, I plan to paint Roundup on the horrible henbit, chickweed, nettle, bittercress, and other weeds that are already growing in my rose beds.
8. Reading the schedule and making plans to exhibit at the BGRS rose show on May 30.

### TOOLS NEEDED FOR PRUNING—*Carol Green, South Metro RS, Photos by Walt Reed*

You will need by-pass pruners, a small pruning saw, by-pass loppers for the larger canes, heavy duty garden gloves, and buckets or trash receptacles for cleaning up the debris. All tools should be very sharp so that cuts are clean. Have a sharpening tool available for that purpose.





## The 'Petite Knockout' Rose

Twenty years since the introduction of the original Knock Out Rose, Star Roses and Plants is launching the first ever, miniature Knock Out Rose, The Petite Knock Out.

A miniature version of the original Knock Out Rose, The Petite Knock Out has the same flowering ability, bright color and easy maintenance as The Knock Out Rose, now in a petite size.

"The 'Petite Knock Out' is perfect for the land-scape, garden and containers," says Layci Gragnani, Rose Brand Manager at Star Roses and Plants. "Its versatility, ultra-compact form and staying power makes it perfect for growers, retailers, landscapers and home gardeners."

The 'Petite Knock Out' has non-fading, bright red flowers on top of dark and shiny green foliage. Breakthrough breeding also makes this rose extremely black spot resistant. The mature plants are 18" tall and hardy to zone 5." To learn more about this rose, visit:

<https://www.knockoutroses.com/petite>.



Photos: [www.starrosesandplants.com](http://www.starrosesandplants.com)

## Spring Pruning (continued from page 1)

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### Make the Cut

Make a slanted cut just above an outward-facing bud eye. Cutting at a slant helps water run off of the wound, which prevents water from collecting on the end of canes, as well as being more aesthetically appealing. After making this cut, the rose will direct its growth to the closest bud, sending out a new terminal shoot. Choose an outward-facing bud eye to ensure that the new growth is directed away from the center of the plant. It is generally not necessary to put anything on the pruning wound. You may apply Elmer's Glue-All over the cut if rose cane borers are a problem-pest in your area.



(continued on page 4)



## Spring Pruning (continued from page 3)

### Pruning for Health

Basic rose pruning involves the 3 Ds: removing dead, damaged, or diseased branches. Dieback is common in roses and most often occurs when a pruning cut has been made in the middle of a branch as opposed to at the bud eye. Since the rose wants to direct growth into the terminal bud, any portion of the branch left between the pruning cut and next bud eye will die back. Sometimes the closest bud eye is not viable, in which case dieback would occur farther down the stem to the next healthy bud. Dead wood is typically brown in color but may also be blackish if caused by winter cold damage or frost injury.

As part of its natural defense system, the rose will attempt to quarantine dieback and create a clear break point between healthy tissue and dead tissue. However, depending on the cause of damage, there may be a leading edge of dying tissue advancing down the stem. For this reason, it is always a good idea to prune dead wood out, no matter what time of year it is. Look at the color of the stem to see if you've cut back far enough; dead tissue often extends farther down the center of the stem. Healthy branches will be pure white or light green in cross-section. Any discoloration indicates dying tissue and should be cut out.

Damaged or diseased wood is also easy to spot, and often goes hand in hand as damaged areas create entry opportunities for diseases. In roses, damaged areas are common on crossing branches, where motion from wind causes thorns to rub against adjacent canes. Wind damage can also occur during the main growing season when top-heavy branches laden with blooms snap in half during stormy weather. Diseased branches usually involve some type of stem canker or lesions from fungal diseases like black spot or downy mildew, and should be removed promptly to prevent the pathogen from spreading.



Examples of dead rose wood and necrotic tissue advancing down the rose stem.



Example of winter freeze damage.



Prune out dead wood well below necrotic tissue.



Discoloration is leading edge of necrotic tissue. Make a second pruning cut lower on stem. Healthy wood is white in cross-section.

## Spring Pruning (continued from page 4)



Damaged canes provide entry for pathogens and insect attack (black spot and powdery mildew winter over on lesions).



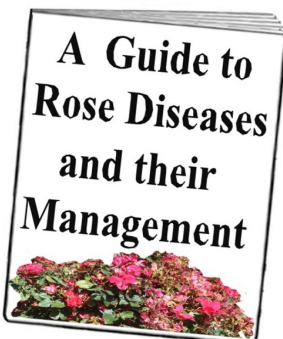
Blossom-heavy stem snapped in half by wind (a common injury to large-flowered climbers).



Prune out diseased canes. Again, the overall goal with rose pruning is to open up the center of the bush to allow for better air circulation and remove older wood. Maintaining a youthful, clean rose plant is the best way to keep your rose healthy and productive.



Left: BAD—Too congested in center of plant.  
Right: GOOD—Open center allows air to circulate.



Download this "booklet" from the ARS website for an easy reference to very useful rose care information by horticulturist Drs. Mark Windham, Alan Windham and Alan Henn.

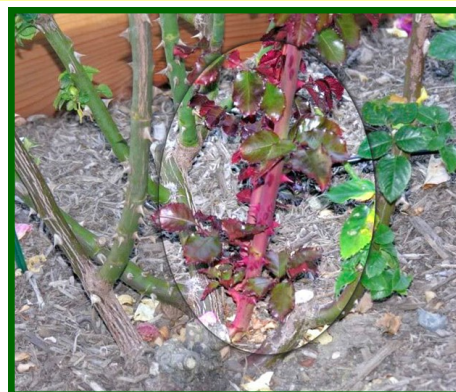
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## Rose Recommendation—from “A Year in the Rose Garden” by A. J. “Pop” Warner

**Take care of basal breaks** - they are the life of your rose bush. A basal break is defined as any large new shoot emerging from within 5 inches of the bud union or coming directly from the bud union. Some growers pinch off the tip at the first blunt bud when they get about one to two feet high; others let them go ahead and flower first. In either case, use extra caution not to break off the entire shoot. Remove old canes that would interfere with the growth path of these new canes as they are valuable to the life and longevity of the bush. Provide a light cover of extra mulch to protect basal shoots from frost damage.



*Reprinted from the March 2019 Cenla Rose Society Newsletter, Billie Flynn, Editor*



Lynda Gibson .....March 10

### **Potted Roses for Sale!**

**Bowling Green Rose Society!**  
\$20-\$25 each

**A list will be available at  
our March meeting!**

### **ARS Trial Membership Available**



**A 4-month trial membership is available for \$10.**  
You'll receive:

- ▶ Two issues of the American Rose, \$20 value.
- ▶ Free or reduced garden admissions, a \$25 value after just three issues.
- ▶ Discounts of up to 30% at merchant partners.
- ▶ Free advice from Consulting Rosarians.

**Free E-Membership@** Receive valuable rose growing information, helpful tips, and special offers.

**Join Now!**

You may [complete the online form](#)  
or call us at 1-800-637-6534  
or visit [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)



### **BGRS Rose Show May 30**

- Our rose show schedule is on the Tenarky website: [www.tenarky.org](http://www.tenarky.org).
- Make plans now to enter. There are categories for novice exhibitors in horticulture and arrangements.
- Please purchase or sell an ad to help with expenses. Contact Ann Jacobs for information.
- Mark your calendars to help with the rose show set up on Friday afternoon, May 29.
- Volunteers are needed to help with the many rose show jobs. Contact Bob Jacobs or Mary Ann Hext to help.
- If you would like to clerk at the show, contact Ann Jacobs.

E-mail: [bgrs@twc.com](mailto:bgrs@twc.com)

## Bowling Green Rose Society

c/o Mary Hext  
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*We're on the Web!!*

[www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org](http://www.bowlinggreenrosesociety.org)

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### REMINDER

#### 2020 Dues are Past Due!

If you have not paid, please send your 2020 dues to our treasurer ASAP. List must be sent to ARS by February 29.

Dan Wernigk  
121 William Wallace Way  
Rockfield, KY 42274

Ask a friend to join!!

### 2020 IMPORTANT DATES

- March 14: Tenarky CR School
- May 30: BGRS Rose Show
- June 17-21: ARS National, Colorado Springs, CO
- September 26-27: Tenarky District Fall Convention/Rose Show hosted by NRS
- October 3: Louisville Rose Show
- November 20: 60th anniversary of the organization of BGRS



### *In Memory of William E. McMahon*

- Died February 18, 2020—age 92
- Survived by Dorothy McMahon “Dot”
- Past BGRS president
- Past Tenarky District Director—two terms
- Recipient of ARS Bronze and Silver Honor Medals
- Editor of “KATnips” Tenarky District newsletter for several years in the 80s
- Originator (with Dot) of “Horizon Roses” now in it’s 36th year and published by ARS President Bob Martin
- Recipient of ARS Presidential Citation from Peter Haring
- Avid rose show exhibitor winning many queens and a “bunch” of the District McFarland trophies
- Former professor at Western Kentucky University
- A fine poet



### 2020 BGRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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