

Rose Pruning

Antelope Garden Club

2/4/2026



Tools



← Bypass pruners and loppers



What to remove

- crossing branches
- dead canes
- diseased canes
- suckers below graft union
- stems less than pencil size
- all last season's leaves
- frozen branch tips

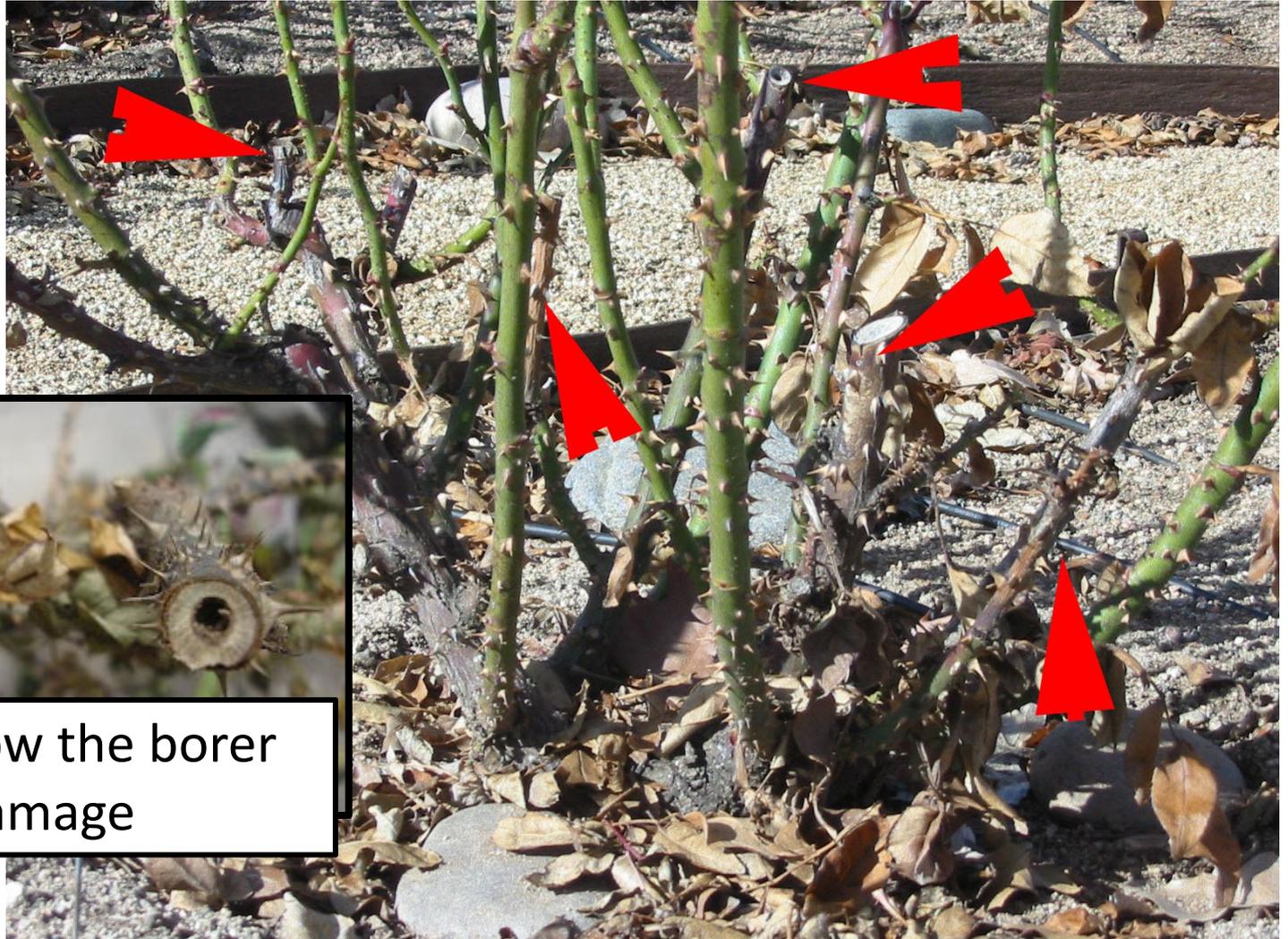


Buds that have already emerged when you prune will produce smaller flowers; pruning before bud break will produce large, more abundant flowers.

Crossing



Dead & diseased canes



Cut below the borer damage



Cut canes above a bud,
slanting away from bud

Right



Wrong



Wrong



After larger canes are cut,
put wood glue on cut to
deter cane borers



To generate new growth on old wood -

- Use wire brush to scrub old gray crusty wood
- Use a saw to remove dead canes at base of shrub



How Much To Cut Off

General rules

- remove $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of last year's growth
- make sure there is space to walk between plants
- try to have somewhat uniform sizes when finished for most of the shrubs (some older shrubs will be taller than many of the others after $\frac{1}{2}$ is cut off)

Hybrid Tea – Before Pruning



Hybrid Tea – After Pruning



Crossing, dead, and anything less than pencil- size has been removed; canes cut to even height; center opened up; dead leaves removed



Old dead stumps have been removed from base

Climbing Roses – General Rules

- Once-blooming – bloom on last year's canes, prune after roses finish blooming
- Repeat-blooming – prune in late winter

How Much to Prune a Repeat Bloomer in March

- Remove all leaves from last season
- Leave major canes (coming from base) to support desired shape
- Cut crossing, dead canes **from base**
- Cut side branches off major canes to encourage more new growth (flowers) – leaving 2 to 3 inches or 2 to 3 buds



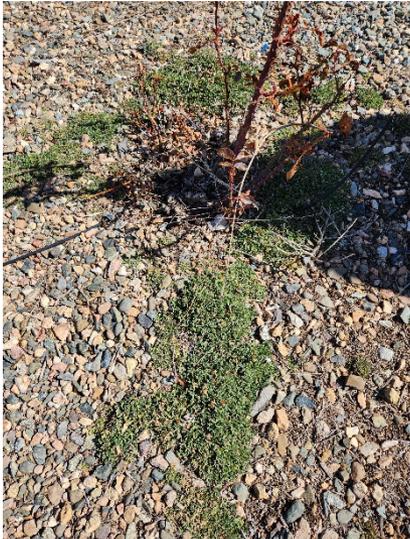
Tools and Ground Under Shrub

Dip pruners / loppers in the Lysol cleaning solution (will be provided) before starting and between each rose bush you prune.



Remove fallen leaves from under shrub to reduce potential for future insect and disease problems.

What Else?



Pull weeds around roses



Water-in 3-in-1 rose systemic (fertilizer, insect and disease control)



Water-in pre-emergent to control warm season weeds (will also apply in August/Sept to control cool season weeds)



Can be applied now or later – roses like fish emulsion

Deadhead During Growing Season

New plants

Cut $\frac{1}{4}$ above outward facing five-leaflet; leave as many leaves as possible on the plant

Established plants

Leave 2 five-leaflet leaves on shoot

