

# Chamblee's Rose Nursery

10926 US HWY 69 N

Tyler, TX 75706

800-256-7673

[www.chambleeroses.com](http://www.chambleeroses.com)

[roses@chambleeroses.com](mailto:roses@chambleeroses.com)

## Principles of Pruning

1. The main objective of pruning is to encourage and direct the growth of your rose bush to achieve the desired landscape design & maximum bloom potential.
2. Generally, the best time for winter pruning is mid February (or after your last hard freeze), before new growth starts.
3. The following steps offer an organized approach to winter pruning.
  - A. Identify good, healthy canes. Good canes are usually at least 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter, relatively young, active and free of disease. This is the growth you will try to save. Before cutting good canes, proceed to the next step.
  - B. Identify poor canes using the following criteria:
    - Dead canes (black or brown)
    - Diseased canes (brown or tan, with a purplish area near the connection to live wood)
    - Weak, spindly canes, "blind shoots" (small canes that did not terminate with a flower during the previous season), distorted canes, and suckers on grafted bushes
    - Crossing canes in the center of bush
  - C. "Thin-out" poor growth back to a good growing point (a good cane that you wish to keep). Prune all the way back to the bud union on grafted roses or to the ground on own-root roses, if necessary. See item 4. "How to make good pruning cuts".
  - D. Reduce the number of good, healthy canes by selectively thinning-out the less valuable canes. Try to "open-up" the center of the plant by thinning-out crossing canes, and distributing remaining good canes as equally as possible around the center. Actual number of good canes remaining will vary with the age of the bush, condition of growth, cultivar, cultural practices, and site conditions.

