



## Climbing Roses

**Climbing Roses are a delight to have in the garden, however they require a bit of special care.**

**Planting and maintaining a climbing rose is followed in the same method as with other roses. The exception is in pruning and winter protection.**

**During the first two years after planting do not prune climbing roses except to remove dead wood.**

**Climbing roses generally produce better flowers on canes that are growing horizontally or at a 45-degree angle to the ground. Canes that grow vertically tend to bloom only on the end of the cane. To train your climbing roses, allow the canes to grow long and then tie them to the trellis in a horizontal position with the tips of the cane pointing downward. This will encourage the lateral buds to produce a flowering branch instead of concentrating growth on the terminal or end bud.**

**As with other roses, pruning should be done in the spring just as the bush begins new growth. Prune newer canes back to 6 to 8 inches, leaving three or four bud eyes on the cane. Guide these young canes to grow horizontally when possible.**

**When the climbing rose becomes older and begins to outgrow the trellis, prune it vigorously, cutting back old canes to the ground. Most canes on climbing roses will only produce for two or three years. Save the green, healthy canes and remove old gray canes. To maintain a uniform bush keep the number of canes constant, a nice plant can be had with three or four vigorous canes.**

**Climbing roses that bloom only once during the season should be pruned after flowering. Continuous-blooming plants should be pruned only in early spring. Keep the dead flowers removed from everblooming bushes, but do not remove any foliage as repeat blooms are produced from the top leaves immediately under the old flower cluster.**

**Climbing roses require special winter protection and this is probably the one big draw back to growing climbing roses in our climate.**

**The ideal way to winter protect your rose is to remove it from the trellis, tie all branches together, and lay the plant down on the ground. Secure the stems to the ground with wooden stakes or wire hoops. Completely cover the plant with 4 to 6 inches of soil, compost or organic mulch after the ground has froze. If the ground is not frozen when you cover the plant, mice may very well decide that this is a lovely winter home.**



**The second option to winterizing your climbing rose if you can not remove it from the trellis is to wrap it with a layer of straw or evergreen boughs held in place with a wrap of burlap. Cover the roots with a foot of soil or mulch.**

**When spring arrives do not be eager to unwrap your rose. The tender shoots are easily damaged by even a light frost.**