

CLIMBING ROSES

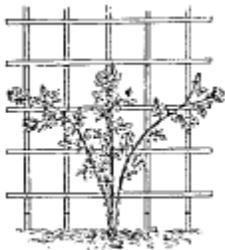
Roses are not true climbers, but certain roses grow extra-long canes. These canes can be tied to trellises, arbors, walls and fences. Climbing Roses are an excellent way of bringing height and a feeling of abundance to the garden.

ENSURE GOOD AIR CIRCULATION

Roses need air space around them, especially where the heat from a wall can cook the plant. Good air circulation also prevents disease. Position the support at least 3 inches away from the wall or fence. Guy wires held away from the wall (or metal pegs) are a good method. Hinges built into a trellis will enable you to get at the wall for maintenance.

TIE AS YOU GO

To enable a new plant to achieve some size, don't prune for the first two years. When a cane reaches a support, or needs support to keep it from drooping, tie it up. Use 8-10 inch lengths of string or strips of cloth for ties. Tie the string tightly around the support, loop it around the cane and tie it loosely enough to avoid binding.



ENCOURAGE CANES TO GROW UPWARD, THEN OUT

Guide the canes to form a fan-shaped pattern. As the cane approaches a desired height, begin training it sideways so that the tip will start growing horizontally. Fill in lower and inner areas with younger canes that appear from the base.

PRUNING CLIMBING ROSES

Most climbing rose canes are only viable flower producers two or three years.

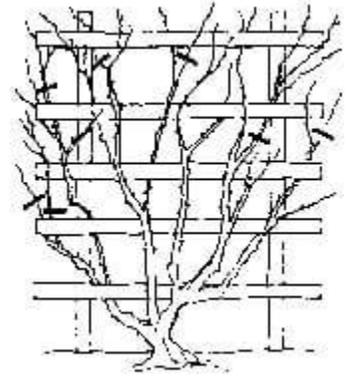
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Prune lightly in spring

Prune re-blooming climbers while they are dormant in spring. Save green healthy canes (usually 4 or 5). Cut the laterals (those that produce the flowers) back to the fourth or fifth buds. Shorten long upright canes to stimulate lateral growth. After climbers have achieved their full expanse, do some pruning each spring just after the bush begins to put out new growth. Trim each stem back to leave three or four bud eyes. Trim the longest canes back by a third. Use sharp shears or clippers (scissors type) and cut on the diagonal. Finally, prune the bush to fit the place was intended to fill or cover.



Cut away old wood

All weak or damaged stems, along with older canes should be removed without damaging healthy stems. Prune out dead, diseased, and older grayish canes as well as weak, younger canes and suckers. Four or five-year-old canes are likely to have thick bark that constricts the flow of sap and reduces flowering. Spring is a good time to remove these old canes as well as any diseased or crossing canes. Cut the canes close to the ground with long-handled loppers or a pruning saw. Remove suckers (unwanted growth below the graft) as soon as they appear.