



The Shady Hill Gardening Tips Series

Save to your computer, or print out for future reference

Shady Hill Greenhouses and Nurseries
1 Adams Road
Londonderry, New Hampshire 03053
Phone Number: 603-434-2063
www.shadyhillgreenhouses.com

Protecting Roses in Winter

Winter protection is often necessary for most roses. The extent of the protection depends on the type of rose and where it is placed in the garden.

Heavy fall pruning of bush roses could mean loss of the entire plant in the event of a severe winter. Experience is a good indicator of how much winter-kill to expect to find in the spring. By leaving 18" to 24" of healthy canes under mulch, you can be fairly sure to have new growth and healthy canes in the spring. However it is advisable to cut extremely long canes back to prevent their whipping in the wind. Tea roses can be pruned more heavily in the spring rather than fall.

Hybrid Tea and Floribunda Roses

After the first hard frost in late fall, you can use any of the following methods for winter protection

Mounding Soil

Prune vigorous, long canes to avoid them whipping in the wind. Make cuts 1/4" above an outward pointing bud so that new growth will be started in the right direction. Tie canes together with twine, and mound the base with soil approximately 10" to 12". Use fresh soil as opposed to raking up existing soil.

Tarpaper or Wire Mesh Collars

Prune only to adjust the size of the plant to the size of the winter covering. Tie canes together with twine. Make a collar from heavy tarpaper or hardware cloth and fasten edges to form a cylinder. Place the collar over the plant and fill it with a mulching material such as peat moss, pine bark or straw. When collar is filled, tie pieces of burlap over the top to keep the mulch in place. Mound soil approximately 10" to 12" around base of collar.

Wrapping

Remove any canes which may be rubbing against each other and those that might be growing inward towards the center. Tie canes together with twine. Bind with evergreen boughs and burlap. Mound soil approximately 6" to 8" around the base.

Climbing Roses

Prune in mid-summer after plants have stopped blooming and all of the blooms are faded. Prune all the flowering canes