

Magic Garden Roses

Hello and welcome to our second newsletter and thanks for all the great feedback we have received from our first. If you are looking for an easy Christmas Gift we have the perfect solution with one of our Gift Vouchers. Alternatively you can simply order selected roses directly from our web site www.magicgardenroses.com.au.



Lovely Lady



Golden Girls

We have had the most amazing Spring here in Melbourne. Absolutely perfect for roses. Melbourne has been looking very colourful the last 4-5 weeks and by now a lot of varieties are starting to finish their first flush with petals falling away.

In this newsletter we are going look at how to cut back your roses after they finish flowering. The term 'de-heading' has to be forgotten.

What we have to realise is if you only cut the stem, just below the bud, you will end up with a thin, but very tall rose, that generally has little foliage down low resulting in the plant only producing half to one third of the roses that it could.



Results of good summer pruning

Many times, when we are out delivering our roses, I see "neglected" roses, I often just want to jump out of my truck and cut the roses back properly! To finish off, I would throw some Terra Firma Organic Life around the base, water it in and then drive away. It would be a blaze of flowers within 5 weeks and the plant would look a million dollars.

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1. Ready to cut back



2. Take at least 50% away



3. Cut back within the canopy

So how do we Summer prune

As pic.1 shows, this is your typical rose bush that is ready cut back. As you can see the buds have fully opened and all petals have fallen away. From this point, most people still cut away just under the bud but that creates a tall rose with fewer roses. The correct way is take at least 50% away cutting back (pic.2) to a point where you are left with a strong stump that can support at least another 3 good stems that will hold lots of blooms. You will notice in pic.3 that we have cut back within the canopy of the rose, maintaining a nice shape.

Every rose that is ready to cut back will have long stems and short stems. The longer they are, cut up to 60% or 70% back. The shorter they are cut a bit less, say 30% to 40% back. This is the best way to get a good new flush of roses, often within 6 weeks depending on variety and time of year. To kick them along and to help the rose regenerate new shoots, it is always good to put down a couple of handfuls of Terra Firmas Organic life and water it in well. We cannot recommend a better fertiliser for roses.

After you have finished, spray some Kendon Triforine (as recommended in first newsletter) and you will have a flush of roses better than the first because by the time they flower, generally the weather is better and a little dryer. (Not really so for our Queensland friends unfortunately)

Some people may think that the way we have shown you to cut back roses in Summer is just like pruning in Winter but this is not true. There is a big difference. You may have noticed we did not cut back all the thin spindly branches as we do in winter. This is because we want to keep as much foliage as possible. The leaves play an important role in the regeneration of the new shoots. That's why it is so

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important to spray the Kendon Triforine, because healthy foliage means a healthy plant. It is best to always think of the foliage as the lungs of the plant. With all that in mind, you can now see what it takes to keep your roses looking better than ever before.

A look at Meilland roses



Leonardo De Vinci

Rabelais

The Rose Romantica

We all remember the most talked about rose in the world, bred by Meilland in France and called "Peace". It was released by Meilland in 1945 to mark the end of World War II and is still as popular a rose today as it was then. Meilland have been breeding roses for over 100 years and they have recently been breeding roses that show extremely high disease resistance coupled with all that old world charm and large cupped shape buds. One of the most popular roses of all is their fantastic climber called "Pierre De Ronsard" which is a beautiful white rose tipped with pink edging. They also have released an amazing bright pink bush rose called "Leonardo De Vinci", a striking red by the name of "Rabelais" and one of our favourites, in a light pink called "The Rose Romantica". For those who love that old world look with all the low maintenance of a new release rose, you should look no further than some of their great range. Of course there are many more to choose from and if you would like to know more, just contact our staff and we will talk you through all the fantastic varieties bred by Meilland International.

Rose identification

Many of you may have moved into new places over the years and have inherited roses that you were not quite sure of. We always happy to help people find out what varieties are growing in their gardens.

You can send us an e-mail with a small attached photo or even mail a bud that is semi open. It may not arrive in the best condition but in most cases they are still easy to identify. For best results in identification also send a few leaves and also part of the stem too.

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Rose problems solved

If you are not getting the results you were hoping you can also send us any problem foliage or buds . If we have fresh samples of the problem physically in hand, we can get a much clearer picture of what the cause might be. So go on, send us some samples of the roses that have been nagging you for so long. We want your rose gardens to look great! (Of course this is a free service to our news letter customers !)



Discounted roses are now available but only to those who receive these newsletters. We are offering a 10% discount through the month December to reward those who make the trip to our gardens and nursery (Melways ref.278 B.7) in Healesville, just mention our newsletter offer. For those in Melbourne who cannot make the trip, just remember our * free delivery service available with rose orders of \$150 or more. (* first 60km free)

For interstate customers, just remember we can now send potted bush roses to you with fantastic results. Our special boxes fit 3 rose plants per box and all the usual discounts apply. Just remember to check our postage rates. (Minimum order of three roses)

Orders placed now will be processed for Christmas. Gift vouchers cards are also available and can be directly sent by us and credited for any amount. We are open as usual over the festive season with the following exceptions:

Closed 25th, 26th and 27th Dec
New Years Eve 10am - 2.00pm
Closed New Years Day



A very Merry Christmas to all of you. We would personally like to thank you for your support during the year and we wish you all the very best for a safe and Happy New year.

Pete and Trish Boerlage
and all the staff
at Magic Garden Roses