

Pruning methods: Left—A hybrid tea rose insufficiently pruned. Little other than flower heads have been removed. Middle—Pruned lightly, the more modern method. Right—Pruned severely, the older method, which is being replaced.

organic matter has decomposed to a suitable state. The planting hole must be sufficiently large to take the roots of the rose fully spread out, and deep enough to bring the bud union just below the surface of the bed. When planted the roots should normally be covered with not more than 6in. of soil, and it may be necessary to have the bud union higher above the soil surface to achieve this. A dressing of 4oz. of blood and bone should be worked into the bottom of each hole.

Where standard roses are being planted the stake should be driven into the hole before the plant is placed in position. Stakes made of angle iron and painted dark green or brown are more durable and quite as attractive as wooden stakes. All stakes for standard roses should be set so that the tops are at a uniform level, which should be just below the bud union.

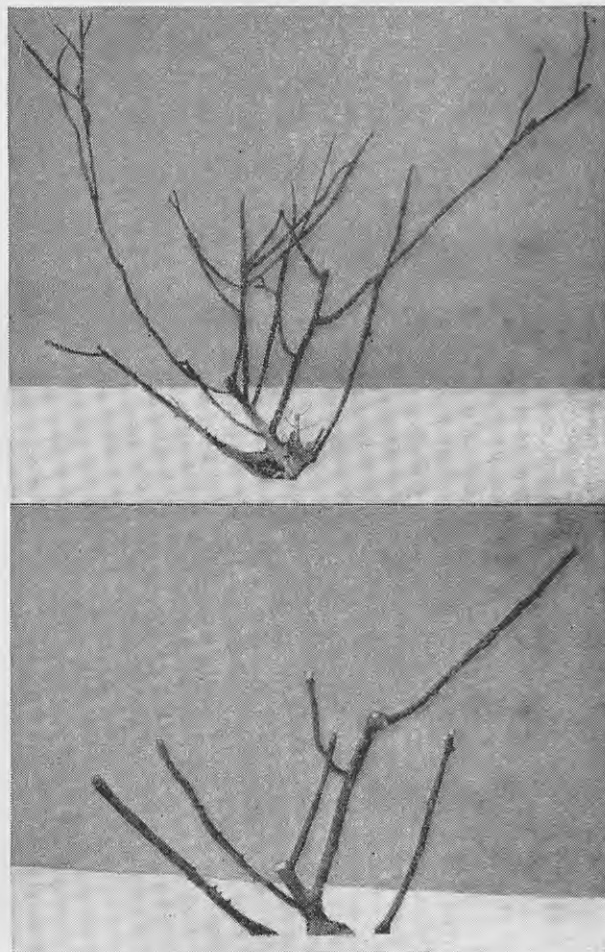
In windy areas the staking of bush roses should be considered, as no plant can thrive while swivelling around on its stem. Old nylon stockings are excellent for tying, and it is important that one of the ties should be close to the head of the plant to prevent damage and the possibility of its snapping off in strong winds.

Where roots have been damaged they should be pruned back into firm wood. When the plant is set in position one or two spadeful of soil should be spread over the roots and the plant lifted slightly. If this operation is repeated, the soil will be well worked in among the roots. When the hole is nearly full the soil should be firmed by tramping. Finally, more soil should be added, tramped again, and levelled off. In heavier soils the tramping may be omitted at planting, but should be done in spring.

Rose Pruning

Contrary to a popular belief, rose bushes usually are not pruned when they come from the nursery, and so pruning should be done at the normal time.

In warmer northern districts, where there is little danger of frosts, pruning should be completed during July. In colder districts it is best left until August, so that growth does not begin until the risk of damage by late frosts is reduced. Pruning secateurs must be sharp so that clean cuts can be made. This is most important in helping to prevent the serious attacks of "die-back" which are prevalent in New Zealand. Pruning cuts should be made to an outside bud, the cut sloping from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $\frac{1}{2}$ in. above



When hybrid polyantha roses are being pruned old wood should be removed and new wood long pruned.