

of pruning for particular conditions or desires. The stronger varieties do not require as severe pruning as the less vigorous, and sometimes very few blooms are obtained when a very vigorous variety is cut back to near the ground as the very strong growth which follows is without bloom. It is better to prune early in the spring rather than in the autumn as one never knows how a plant will come through the winter. In pruning, the strongest, healthiest stems are left and the weak ones cut off at the ground. In pruning, leave an outside rather than an inside bud as the top bud, so that the shoot from this bud will grow outward rather than through the plant.

Hybrid Tea roses are pruned much like hybrid perpetuals though usually not so severely. Tea roses, which usually kill to near the ground in Canada, if they live through the winter at all, should have the dead and injured wood removed, and if the wood should not be injured the branches should be pruned back about one-third. It is extremely important to remove suckers or roots springing from the stock on which the rose is budded. These should be removed as soon as noticed and careful watch kept for them. They should be cut off close to the stock and not at or above the ground. It may be necessary to take away a little soil to do this. There is no reliable way of telling the stock, but experience will increase the knowledge in this respect, but vigilance is necessary or the stock will assert itself and soon the rose one thinks he is growing will not be there. The leaves of the stock are often of a paler green colour than the named varieties and not so glossy. Sometimes the leaves of the stock have a purplish tinge. Usually the stocks have a larger number of leaflets on the leaves than the named varieties.

Winter Protection.—Roses of the first group need little or no protection in many parts of Canada. In the Prairie provinces, where the country is open, it is desirable to bend some of them down and cover them with soil and, where evergreen boughs can be obtained, to put some of these over them as well. A little soil taken from one side of the bush will enable one to lay the bush flat down so that the whole of it may be covered. Should the ground freeze and snow fall so that the bush cannot be covered, a good plan is to tie the branches together and then tie over the branches some evergreen boughs, canvas, straw or any material which will protect the bush both from wind and sun. The material should be of such a nature that it will protect the plant but at the same time not hold moisture for any length of time, as if the canes are moist for a considerable time they may mould. For hybrid perpetual, hybrid tea, and tea roses more protection is necessary. One of the simplest methods of protecting both hybrid perpetual and hybrid tea roses is to earth them up six or eight inches or more in the autumn, thus protecting the lower part of the stems, and if the tops are killed back the lower part of the stem is almost sure to remain alive. In addition to this the plant may be bent down and held down with soil or where bushes are not usually pruned back severely they may be entirely covered with soil to preserve them. Where this treatment is not sufficient, a light covering of straw or evergreen boughs over the soil is desirable, which will prevent sudden thawing and freezing and may save the plants sometimes. If the soil is frozen deep before one thinks of covering, the bush may be bent down and held down with boards and covered with evergreen boughs, or even without these the snow may be sufficient protection. In the spring the soil should be levelled and the bushes raised as soon as possible to prevent the development of disease. Good results are obtained where the preceding method fails by bending the bushes down and covering them with a box, and still further protection is afforded by bending down, putting a box without cover or bottom over, then filling this with dry leaves and putting a cover on the box, which should be tight. If the leaves are wet when put in or if they become wet in the spring the stems may mould. When boxes are used the cover should be raised at the first opportunity in the spring to allow a freer circulation of air and permit the stems to dry and the bark harden a little before removing the box altogether.