

Pruning Tips for Each Rose Class

While guidelines outlined in the previous section may be applied to hybrid teas, and small and large shrub roses, there are specific guidelines you should follow for other varieties.

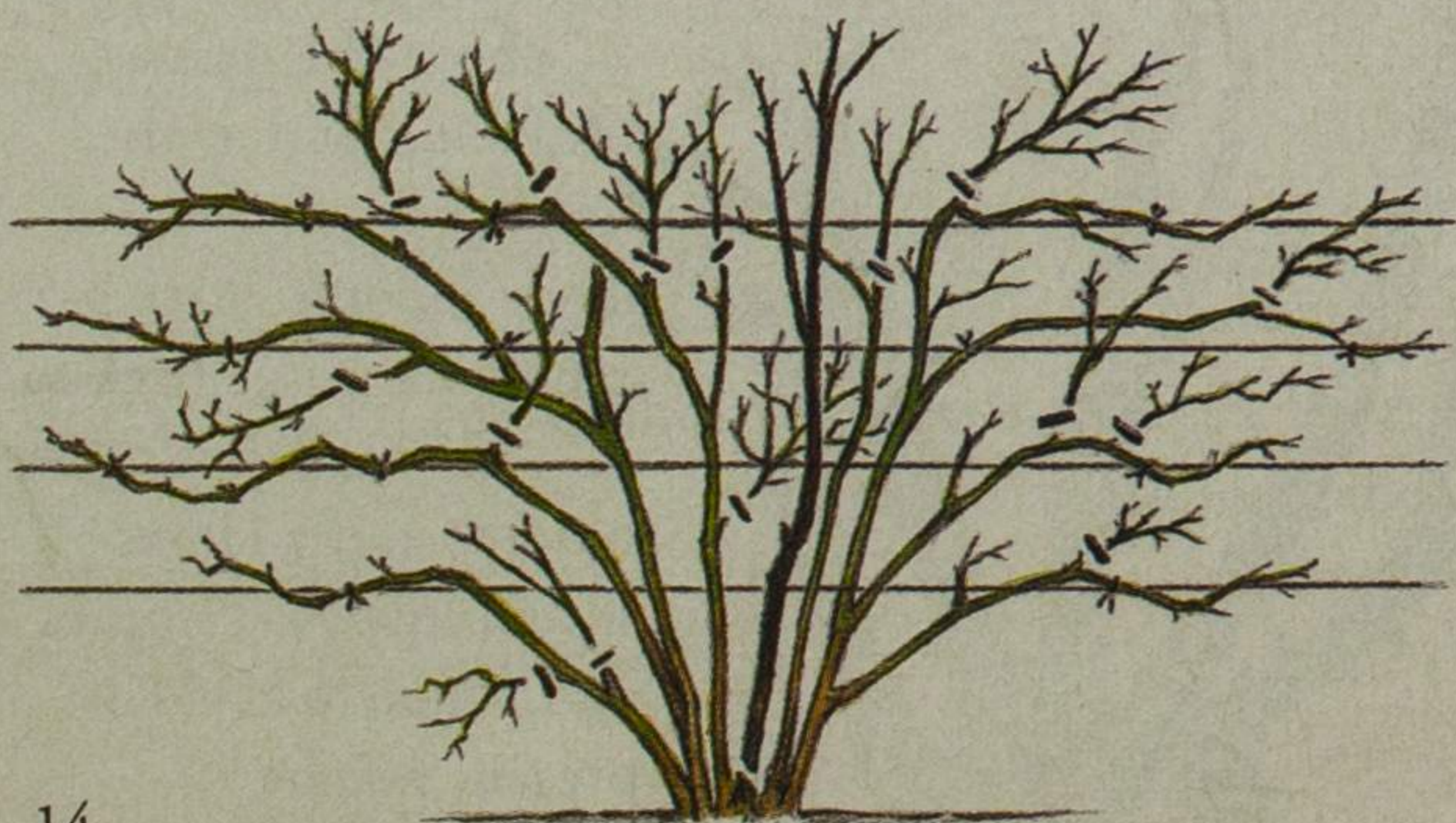
The principles listed on this page regarding pruning will assure the healthy growth of your plant.

Tree roses

Prune back by about half. This will encourage new growth and maintain the compact rounded form.

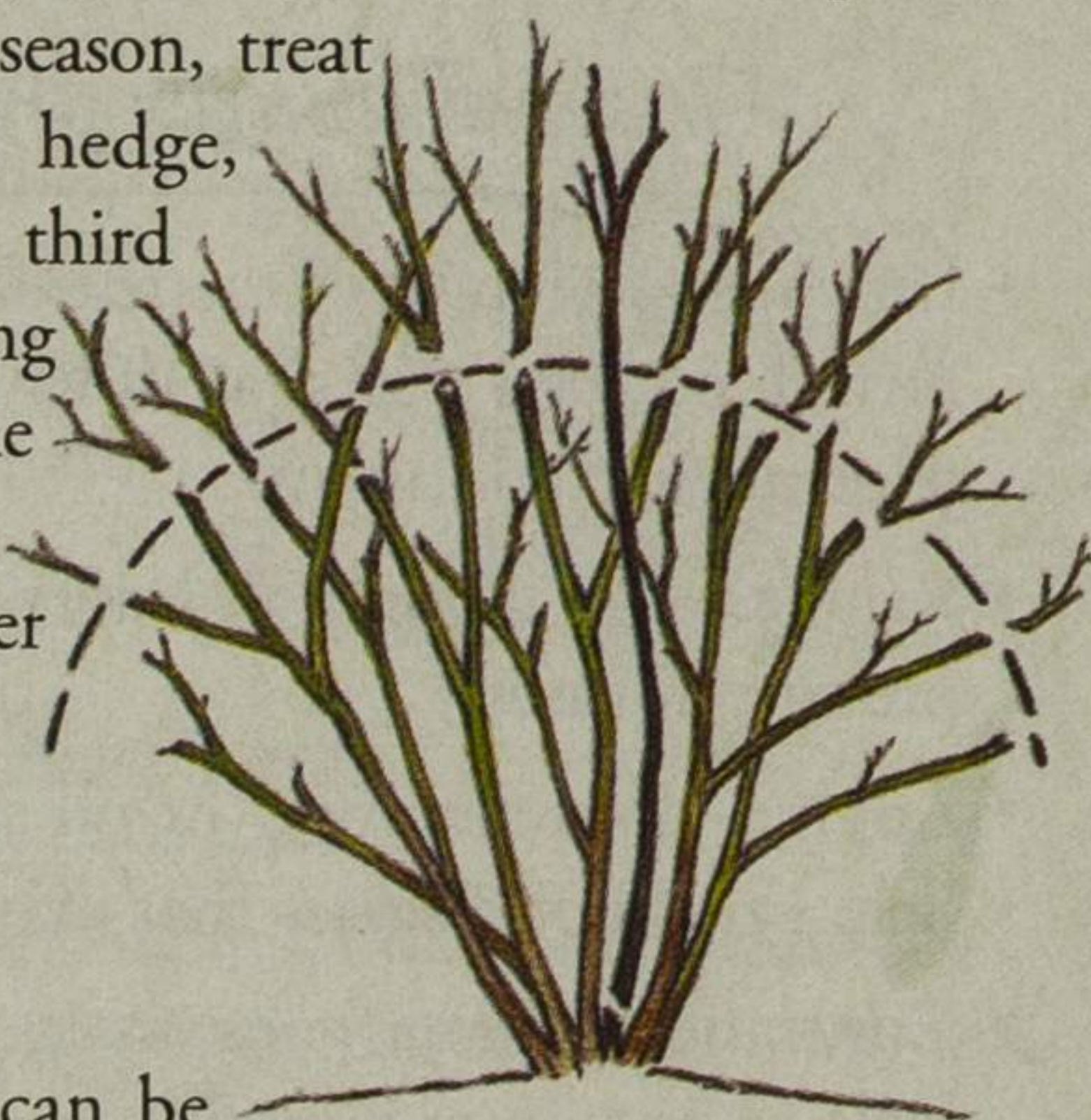
Climbing roses

These roses usually bloom best on two-year-old wood, so prune very lightly. Remove only twiggy growth and damaged or non-productive stems. Reinvigorate growth every 2-3 years by removing old, woody canes at their base in favor of the younger, more vigorous and flexible, green canes. These can be trained to grow on arbors, trellises, fences or pillars.



Shrub roses

During the first two seasons, allow the plant's basic framework to develop, pruning only the small spindly shoots. In the third season, treat as you would any hedge, shearing off the top third of the plant, leaving the rest to grow. Prune smaller shrubs back by one-half and larger shrubs by one-third.



English roses

Most English roses can be grown as either a shrub rose or a small climber. Follow the applicable instructions above.

TIPS FOR GREAT CUT ROSES

Cut roses in early morning when the moisture level and sugar content are highest. Use a sharp pruner or knife. Make an angle cut just as the outside petals begin to open. Always leave at least two sets of five leaflets on each stem, so new flowers will develop.

Remove thorns and leaves that will be below water level in the vase, and immerse in warm water. Recut stems under water. Add a floral preservative to the water to make blooms last longer.

For prize-winning exhibition roses, we recommend disbudding. Pinch out the side buds while they are small, leave only the top bud. This will concentrate the plant's energy into producing fewer – but larger – blooms.