

# How to deadhead a Rose

Removing wilted blooms (deadheading) from your roses is a simple way to give your garden a tidy appearance. Roses, like many other flowering plants use their flowers as way of producing fruit. Once it pollinates it fades to transform to a fruit. Once this happens the plant puts its energy into producing the fruit. When you remove the spent flowers, the rose thinks it has lost its chance to fruit so keeps on producing new flowers.



# What type of rose is it?

Roses come in a variety of shapes and species. Some roses are shrubs while others are bushes, then you have separate cultivars that need special care and upkeep. Identification of what type of rose you have will determine how you deadhead them. Here are the main types

## Deadheading Hybrid Tea Roses

The general rule for deadheading hybrid teas is to find the top set of five leaflets, then cut the stem below that, at the second set of five leaflets. In late summer to early autumn you can cut off the bloom itself resulting in more stem and leaf growth. However, if you do this earlier in the season, the roses will produce more flowers on shorter stems. Hybrid teas are valued as long-stem roses, so you could end up removing one of their best features if you deadhead them early.

## Deadheading Floribunda and Spray Roses

Instead of producing a single flower per stem like other varieties, floribunda and spray roses tend to produce clusters of blooms. When you are deadheading, you can make your cuts anywhere below the entire cluster of spent roses along the stem from which it grew. All the flowers in a cluster grow in unison and fade away together, meaning you won't have individuals in a cluster fading ahead of others in the cluster.

## Deadheading Shrub Roses

These are one of the easier roses to deadhead and manage as they tend to shed their spent roses regularly and grow new ones in their place. This means that the rose tends to take care of itself but you will still want to clean up fallen roses. You can also give it a hand by removing stubborn roses from the stem.

## What you will need.

- Secateurs or snips
- Gloves if reaching into a shrub rose

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