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10 Hot tips for pruning

1. Pruning is best done after flowering.
2. Dead heading will encourage repeat flowering, either immediately or later in the season, cut back the dead flower heads to just above the first leaf with a plum bud.
3. Remove dead diseased and dying stems first.
4. Reshape by using restorative pruning- Prune about one third of the oldest stems each season, by the end of three seasons the entire plant is renewed.
5. Don't prune more than a few centimetres into old wood.
6. Always remove any suckers, they draw nutrients away from the plant.
7. Roses should be pruned in the spring however removing whippy shoots to prevent the plants being rocked by winter winds is helpful.
8. Rambler roses are the only group to require summer pruning. Some other plants can be cut back to just above the ground in early spring - e.g. Buddleja davidi and Cornus
9. Using clean and sharp secateurs - identify main stem (the leader) and lateral stems (side shoots from main stem) and always make pruning cuts immediately above a bud, lead flower, branch division, etc., never in the middle of a length of shoots.
10. Position the cut approximately 6mm above the bud and sloping away from it and to an outward facing bud to encourage shoots to grow outwards.



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