



## Question of the Week

**Q: Is there anything special I need to do for my floribunda roses before the snow flies?**

**A:** Most types of garden roses need winter protection. Don't prune heavily in fall. After the first hard frost, use one of the following procedures to protect your hybrid tea and floribunda roses:

### **Mounding with soil**

Prune back long canes that might whip about in the winter wind, making pruning cuts 1/4" above an outward-pointing bud so the new growth will get started in the right direction. Tie canes together with twine. Mound soil around the base of the rose to a height of 10 to 12 inches. Bring in additional soil if necessary; don't rake it up from the base.

### **Protecting with wire mesh**

Tie canes together with twine. Make an enclosure from wire mesh about 18 inches high, fastening the edges around the canes and trimming any cane that poke out the sides of the cage. Fill cage with a mulching material, such as peat moss, pine bark, straw or leaves. Mound soil to a depth of 10 - 12 inches around base of cage

### **Wrapping**

Prune only canes that are rubbing together or growing inward toward the center of the bush. Tie the canes together with twine. Bind with evergreen boughs or burlap. Mound soil to a depth of six to eight inches around the base.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)