



The Minnesota Tip Method For Winter Protection

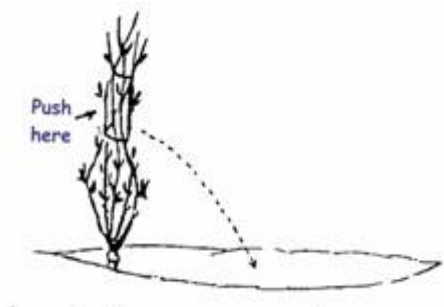


This guide is a service of the Minnesota Rose Society
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Winter protection is essential for Minnesota. It must serve two functions—to keep the temperature high enough to prevent winter kill and low enough to keep the roses dormant. Covering also serves to keep the sun and wind off the bushes. The sun and wind during the colder months can dry and wither canes, a common cause of winter damage.

Winter protection starts with the work you do during the summer to bring your roses into the fall season in the best of health. Here are the steps to follow to protect your roses during the winter and early spring. A good starting date would be around October 7th, and certainly before the temperatures threaten to reach 20° F. A drop below that temperature could kill or severely damage unprotected tender roses.

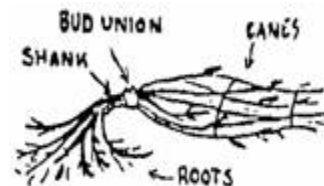
1. Water generously to keep the soil in good, moist condition.
2. Give your plants a good dormant spray. Some of the popular sprays for this purpose are fungicides or liquid lime sulfur.
3. Starting around October 7th tie the canes of the bushes together to make them easier to handle. Prune any unwanted growth at this time and remember to seal all the pruned canes.



4. Around October 15th dig a trench, starting away from and working toward the base of the bush. The trench should be as long as the bush is high. Dig it wide enough to accommodate the bush or bushes. (You can put more than one bush in a good sized trench). Pull the soil away from the shank (the root stock is just below the bud union or graft). Dig carefully so as not to damage the bush or its roots. Use a spade or shovel for the trench. Use a spading fork for

loosening the soil around the roots.

5. When the trench is ready and the roots of the bush are loosened, use a spading fork to push the bush into the trench. See diagram above. Use the spading fork, or wire loops or weights, to hold the bush down while you cover it with 2 or 3 inches of soil. If the soil



you removed in digging the trench is not enough, add soil from your annual garden or other site. **REMEMBER:** In the tipping method, only the roots bend. Pull away soil from the shank and it will be easy for the roots to bend.

6. After the ground has frozen, cover the soil with about 1-2 feet of loose leaves or a covering such as marsh hay. Bagged leaves may also be used. Place several tins of rodent bait among the leaves to discourage the visit of small, but destructive, field animals.
7. Water the leaves well. The water cuts down on the danger of fire and also helps form ice which helps the plants stay dormant. Use fencing, such as chicken wire, around the rose bed or lay it on top of the leaves, to keep the leaves from blowing in a strong wind.

In the Spring:

Start removing the covering around April 1st. Continue removing the cover as it thaws. On or about April 15th check to see if the soil is completely thawed. If thawed, raise the plants to an upright position. Water the plants and keep the canes moist by watering them several times a day. Keeping the canes moist will prevent them from drying out until the bush begins to grow.

Feed the plants with a good balanced rose food once buds start to form. Prune the bushes once buds are formed and actively growing. Spray regularly once leaves start to form.

OTHER PROVEN METHODS OF WINTER PROTECTION

Note: For each of the methods listed below, follow steps 1,2,3 and 7 described above. Do not prune in fall except as described above.

VARIATION OF THE MINNESOTA TIP

1. Use a spading fork, gently loosen the soil around the base of the bush. Then still using the spading fork, push the bush gently over onto the ground. The plant should bend at the roots if the soil is loose enough around the shank. Use wire loops or wooden pegs to hold the bush down.
2. Cover the bush with 2-3 inches of soil and 1-2 feet of leaves or marsh hay holding the covering on place with fencing as described above. Water the leaves well.
3. In spring reverse the procedure as described earlier.

BEND, HILL AND COVER

1. Bend the bushes over very gently and carefully in an arch; pin or tie down with wire loops or stakes. Great care must be taken to avoid breaking canes off at the roots. Don't try to bend short bushes. Mound up base of the bush with soil, (about 9-12 inches).
2. Cover the bushes with about 2 feet of leaves or marsh hay, held place by fencing around the entire bed. Be sure the cover extends out at least 1.5 feet from the center of the bush. Water leaves well.
3. In spring reverse the procedure as described earlier.

HILL AND COVER

1. Mound up the base of the bush with 9-12 inches of soil. A wire cylinder may be used to hold the soil in place. Tie very tall canes to a strong stake/pole driven into the ground next to the bush. Do not prune unless necessary. Seal any pruned canes.
2. Cover the entire bed with about 2 feet of leaves or marsh hay held in place by fencing. As above water well.
3. In the spring, gradually remove the cover, starting about April 1. Beginning around April 15th, gently wash the soil off the bushes in stages. If additional soil was brought in to mound in the fall, be sure to remove the excess soil.

Polystyrene Cones are not recommended by the Minnesota Rose Society.

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Visit our website: www.minnesotarosesociety.org