



Winter Blizzard Rose Care

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For the past several years, the winters have been relatively dry and marked with fluctuating temperatures. Some years, the temperatures have not been low enough to bring on dormancy. Last year, for instance, we had a late fall freeze with a very dry winter accompanied by a spring freeze which resulted in rose die-back and loss.

This year, the weather outside has indeed been very frightful. There have been repeated snowfalls measured in feet, lots of cold wind and sub-zero temperatures. What does this mean for our roses? First of all, the roses will have gone dormant with the very cold temperatures, which is a good thing. The snow cover will provide insulation for your roses, which is also a good thing. Once the snow cover is gone and you can move around in your rose beds, mulch your roses with cedar mulch or evergreen boughs if you had not already done so. It is important for the crown to be protected from fluctuating temperatures going into late winter and early spring

Wind-damaged canes can be carefully pruned out as weather permits. Canes that are obviously dead can be pruned back to a length of three feet to help avoid further wind damage. Be careful not to get carried away with your pruning. The end of April is the time to begin pruning in earnest.

Be sure to monitor your soil for moisture when it dries out. Water if the soil becomes dry. It is hard to imagine dry soil, especially with more snow on the way. But remember, we live in Colorado!