

# WINTER HOUSEKEEPING WITH ROBBIE YORTT FROM GROSAFE GARDEN



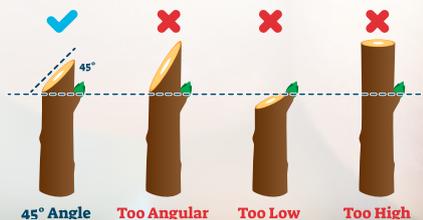
Winter is the time to tackle the tasks of pruning roses, deciduous trees and summer flowering shrubs such as hydrangeas.

Robbie Yortt of Grosafe gives her tips for a successful winter clean up to ensure optimum spring health.

"In nature, wild animals do the pruning. Nibbling at leaves and stems naturally reduces the plant to a compact base from which spring growth erupts. In the garden we are aiming for an aesthetically pleasing shape and to get rid of bugs that cause pest and disease problems in warm weather. The rewards come in spring and summer with beautiful, healthy growth and optimal flowering."

## The right way to prune

- ✓ Ensure tools are sharp. A clean cut avoids 'ragged' stems which invite disease to enter.
- ✓ Remove any dead or damaged branches first.
- ✓ Aim to create an open 'outward facing' branch system with plenty of space for air movement.
- ✓ For bush roses, select 3 to 5 of the strongest, well-spaced branches to save for the final structure. Remove any that are crossing over or growing towards the centre of the bush.
- ✓ Shorten back the remaining branches by half to two-thirds of their original height. Make cuts just above an outward facing bud at a 45° angle, sloped to direct water away from the bud.



## Winter clean-up

Once the pruning is done it is time to spray for disease prevention. **FreeFlo Copper** is a water dispersal granule (WDG) of **Copper Hydroxide**, the preferred copper used by growers in New Zealand. It is important to make sure you get a really good coverage so the plant is completely wet with the spray. Use **FreeFlo Copper** for roses and ornamentals. For edible plants use **FreeFlo Copper Fruit & Vegies** a protectant fungicide for the control of a range of fungal and bacterial diseases. **FreeFlo Copper Fruit & Vegies** is very effective in treating diseases like **Bacterial Blast** which can seriously damage and kill stone fruit trees. **Bacterial Blast** presents itself by creating open cankers that ooze an amber coloured gum on woody parts of the tree. Apply at leaf fall and repeat every 4 weeks until bud movement, then treat as for **Leaf Curl**.

Next, we recommend protecting all pruning cuts with **InocBloc® Prune'n' Paste**. This unique, BioGro certified pine-based product is easy to apply and provides an effective natural barrier against fungal and bacterial diseases.

**Enspray 99®** should be applied at least 7 days later. **Enspray 99®** Spraying oil helps control insect pests that hibernate over the winter months. To kill any insect pests hatching from surviving eggs, spray again with **Enspray 99®** in early spring, as roses burst their buds.

**EcoSpread®** improves active ingredient uptake by increasing the penetration through the waxy layer of leaves, even under difficult conditions. **EcoSpread®** is the only BioGro Certified super spreader surfactant that enhances spreading when used with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, growth regulators and foliar fertilisers. As a super spreader, the sprayed droplets are distributed widely and rapidly resulting in an evenly wetted plant. **EcoSpread®** improves rainfastness down to 30 minutes.




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