

# Yes! Grow beautiful *long stemmed* roses in Redding!

(Compliments of Leon Nelson – lcnanddjn@gmail.com)

● **PRUNING:** In November, prune all your roses (except tree and climbers) to within three feet of ground level. Open up center of bush by cutting away all branches growing "inward." In January, cut main stems back to 12" - 14" from ground level. Remove all leaves from bush and those on ground; cut away dead wood. To jump-start new growth from the bud union — "bud union" is where the main stems of the bush originate, in the ground — it's OK to leave only two or three (best) of the most healthy canes. After fertilizing, new growth will *amaze* you, and this is *the secret* to having long-stemmed roses in the spring!!!

● **FERTILIZING:** In January, apply 2-3 cups of alfalfa pellets (most nursery and feed stores carry this product) at the base of each rose bush. *The alfalfa pellets will promote strong new stem-growth, aka "laterals" or "basal breaks," from the bud union!* Be sure to have the bud union somewhat exposed at each plant, so the new basal breaks will have No Problem sprouting forth! AND: When you have a new lateral shoot growing, be certain to prune it about 14" from the bud union to promote the growth of two strong and large branches from that point!

**Go here for: "Grow Amazing Roses Using Alfalfa" —**

<http://www.manuretea.com/2010/06/grow-roses-alfalfa/>

**Go here for: "Basal Breaks, Bud Unions, and Grafting" —**

<http://www.atlantarose.org/gars/Bud%20Unions.html>

In early-March, give each rose bush two gallons of Miracle Grow solution, poured over the branches and the bud union. Again in early-April, give the roses another two gallons EACH of Miracle Grow, being sure to pour the liquid over the new leaves and branches that are beginning to show!!! The only other fertilizing (with MIRACLE GROW) will be one time in early-September and again in early-October!!!

**— FOR MIXING 30 GALLONS OF MIRACLE GROW —  
(Good for 15 rose bushes!)**

**Into a metal 30 gallon garbage can, place 1/2 of a bag of Miracle Grow powder. Fill the garbage can with water from your hose. Use two 2-gallon-size metal pails for carrying the fertilizer solution.**

● **SPRINGTIME "FINGER-PRUNING":** As the new branches grow, some will be seen to be pointing toward the center of the bush; these **MUST** be removed. Just take your finger and "push" them off the main stem. The branches from the main stem will eventually be seen to have some buds that are going to become roses. Some of these new growth "rose-buds" can be "pinched" off with your fingers, too, especially if they are close together. If you want a single blossom at the end of the branch, then allow only a single bud to grow. If you want a "spray" of several blossoms, then pinch out the center bud (it will be the first-growing and will be the largest). Watch for large new stems growing from the bud union — they'll be at least a half-inch in size and will be purple in color. *These are what you want*, and are the result of your having pruned away old-growth canes and your application of alfalfa pellets! Let these new stems grow to 14" in height and then cut them off at a place where five leaves are growing; this will give you two branches from which you can cultivate your roses!

**ENJOY!!!**