

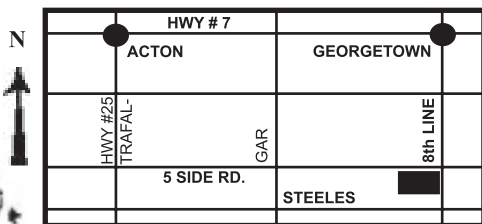


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BLOSSOM TIME: Trees and bushes around town and district are blooming in profusion, including these specimen on Elmore Drive - the white blooms a crab apple, the other also a flowering crab with its profusion of hot pink flowers.

Spring ideal time to prune your roses

Nearly all roses need an annual, major pruning in the late winter or early spring, right when they're just starting to send out new growth.

The new growth is usually little red buds or shoots that will turn into new leaves and stems. Don't wait much longer than that

or you'll start interfering with flower production.

Pruning roses well is an art, but even a beginner can do it as long as you follow a few rules.

The basic principle for all rose pruning (except climbers) is to direct all growth outward and upward in a regular and even fashion, keeping the centre of the rose bush open so air can circulate, thereby preventing disease and allowing in maximum light to produce maximum flowers.

Having the right tool for the job is also essential. Be sure to choose a tool that helps reduce the stress and strain often associated with pruning roses.

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