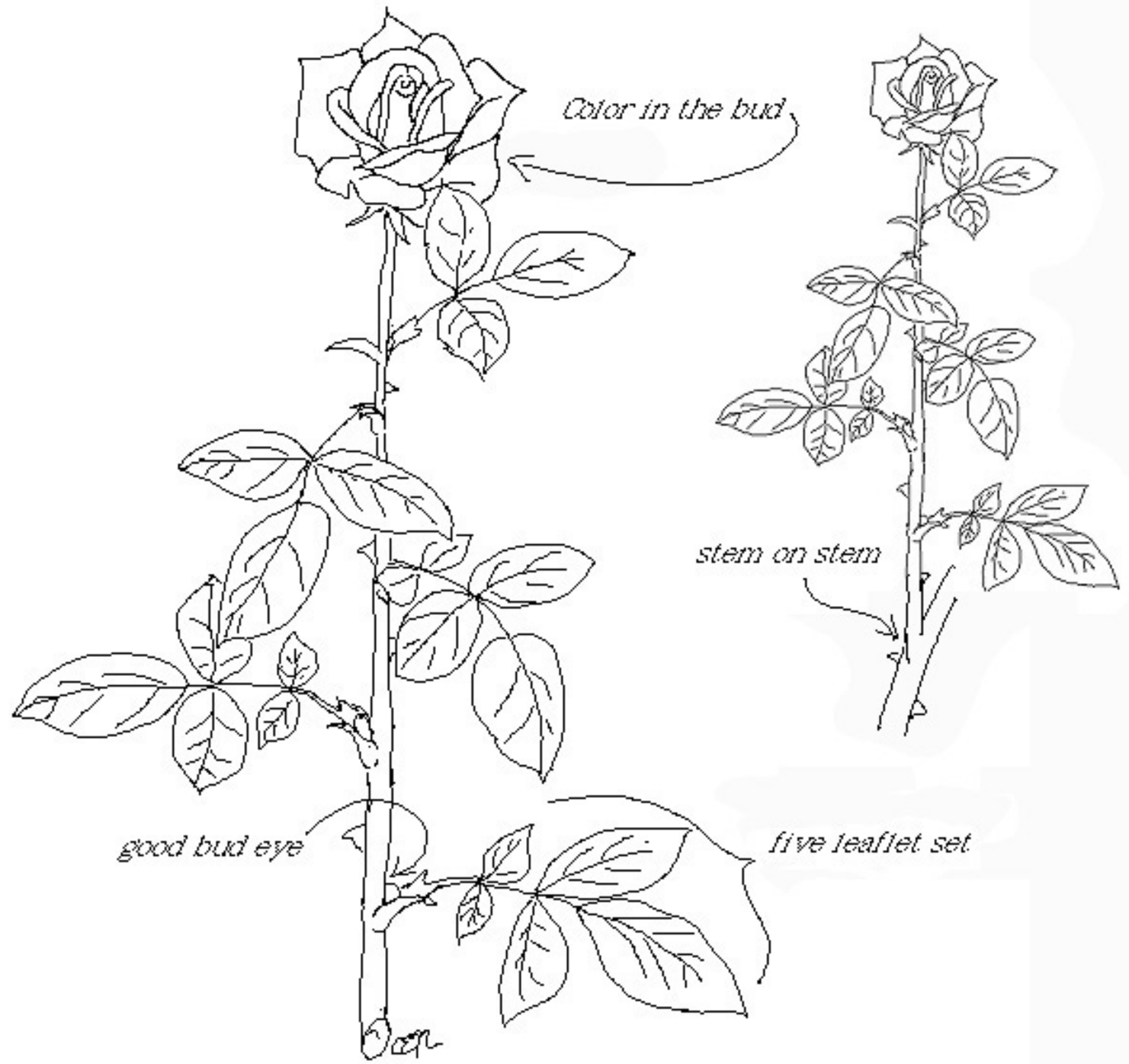


Remove the flowering part, strip off the bottom two sets of leaves and score the bottom part of the stem along its length an inch or so.

Roots will form along this score. To score the cutting, you can use a knife, pin (or even a sharp fingernail) and scratch just through the surface to the pith underneath

Don't remove all of the leaves, just those that will be underneath the soil. The cutting needs the leaves to produce roots, but those under the soil will just rot.

The leaves can be trimmed back if there is a problem fitting them into the baggie



Take a cutting from this year's growth.

It is preferable to have at least a five leaflet set at the bottom of the cutting, but this isn't necessary.

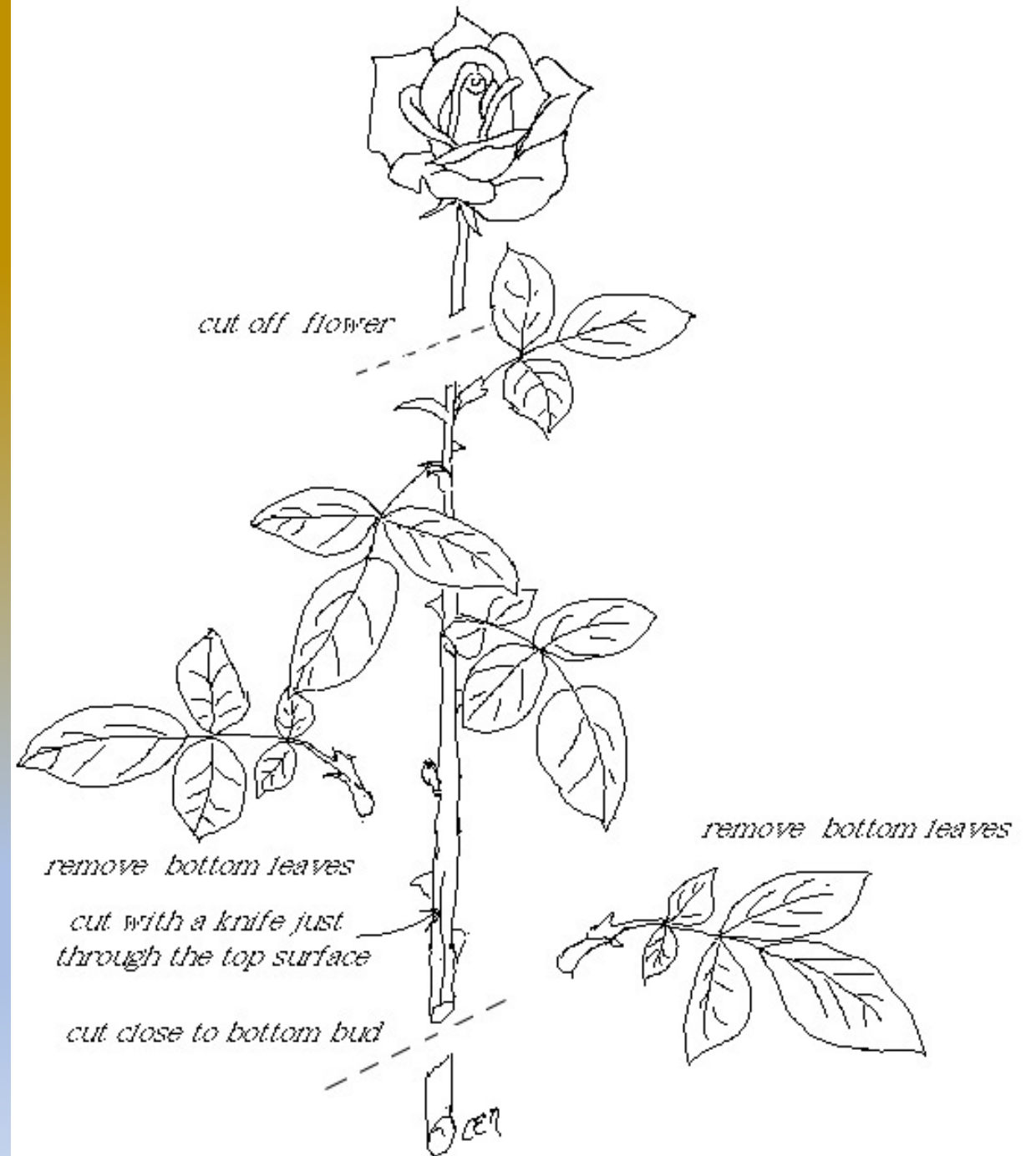
How thick or long the cutting should be depends greatly on the rose variety.

What's most important is that the cutting has healthy bud eyes.

Remove the flowering part, strip off the bottom two sets of leaves.

Score the bottom part of the stem along its length an inch or so. Roots will form along this score.

To score the cutting, you can use a knife, pin (or even a sharp fingernail) and scratch just through the surface to the pith underneath.



Put the cuttings in bright, indirect light - if they get too much direct sun they will cook.

If you use a window, you may have to experiment a bit to find the best exposure. What ever light source you use, just place the baggie there and ignore it for awhile.

If any leaves drop from the stem, you can remove them and re-inflate the baggie.

In about a month, you should see roots forming in the soil.

When you have plenty of roots, you can start to harden the cutting off. Don't rush it. Wait until there is top growth.

Some roses are good at producing top growth before they produce roots. This can cause some people to think that the rose has rooted when it actually hasn't yet and they make the mistake of trying to harden the cutting off too early. In this case just wait.

Other roses are good at producing lots of roots but are slow to produce top growth.

You can successfully harden off the cutting when you see roots and top growth. But it doesn't hurt at all to wait. I've left cuttings so long in the baggie that they bloomed.

When the cutting has enough roots, unzip the baggie about an inch. Unzip a little more every day for about a week. If any any time the cuttings start to look shriveled, zip the baggie back up and leave it for a few days before starting to harden it off again. Once the baggie is fully open, transplant to a pot and protect from too much direct sun for a while.

## **Some notes:**

There is a BIG difference between cultivars in how long it takes them to breakout. Some will show roots by the end of ten days, others will take more than 6 weeks. If the cutting is still green there is hope.

Don't use diseased cuttings. Blackspot and Mildew just LOVE the closed, humid environment of a baggie. If the leaves drop, don't panic. The cutting may still root.

Reasons the leaves drop: diseases such as blackspot will definitely cause them to drop. Inadequate light will cause them to drop.

If the soil is too dry, the cuttings will shrivel, if it is too moist they will rot and turn black.

If there are any black or rotting leaves or cuttings in the baggie, just open it up and remove them.

Some rose cultivars root easier than others.

It is illegal to asexually propagate patented roses without permission from the hybridizer. Patents last 20 yrs in Canada.

Zip lock baggies can be used to root plants other than roses. Some of the plants that root easily in baggies are:

Tomatoes - tomatoes are incredibly easy to root from cuttings. Just cut off several pieces that will fit in the baggie and stick them in the soil the same way you would rose cuttings. Roots are usually visible in under a week. You can get good sized tomato plants faster than by seed this way.

Stevia - this herb is currently in vogue and can be quite expensive. It roots fairly easily in about three weeks. Cuttings from non-blooming plants root the easiest.

Salvias - I've rooted the following salvias in two to three weeks: Pineapple Sage - *Salvia elegans*, Lady in Red, Indigo Spires, and Gentian Sage - *Salvia patens*.

Various thymes such as English Thyme and Lemon Thyme root easily.

Lemon Verbena roots easily.

Lavender roots easily from cuttings.

Many other plants are propagated commercially from cuttings as well. Check the WWW. to see what else you can grow!