

Pruning Tips

CLIFF'S
YOUR EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST

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1. Why should you prune?

Regular pruning of dead and diseased parts of a plant helps keep it strong, vigorous, and more resistant to storm damage.

Pruning also controls size and balance making the plant fit better into your overall landscape design. Carefully pruned flowering plants produce more flowers year-in and year-out, while fruit bearing trees yield more fruit.



2. When should you prune?

The best time to prune is generally during the plant's dormant period. This is usually in late winter. However, pruning should be done year-round as needed. Some specific optimum pruning times:



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Blooming Bushes and Shrubs
Late Winter/Early Spring • Spring Blooming Bushes and Shrubs After Bloom
Late Spring/Early Summer • Maple, Birch, Walnut, Poplar
Fall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead or Diseased Branches
Remove Anytime
The sooner the better • Fruit Trees
Late Winter/Early Spring
After dormant – Before bloom • Water Sprouts
Remove anytime
The sooner the better |
|--|--|

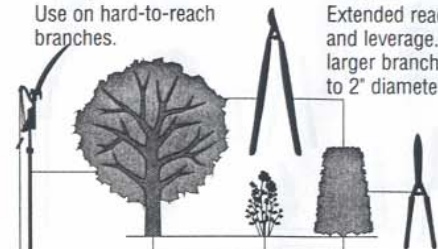
3. Choosing the right tools.

Tree pruners

Use on hard-to-reach branches.

Loppers

Extended reach and leverage. For larger branches up to 2" diameter.



Hand pruners

Use on stems up to 3/4" in diameter.

Hedge shears

All hedges except larger woody branches.

Picking the right tool for the job means less work and ensures that your plants will heal more quickly. Hand pruners work well for small jobs; loppers for large; hedge shears for hedges, bushes, and shrubs; and tree pruners for those hard-to-reach tree limbs. Keeping your tools clean and sharp will extend their life, and they will make cleaner cuts as well. Simply dry your tools after each use and apply a few drops of oil to the blades and joints.

4. Anvil vs. By-Pass.

Hand pruners and loppers are available with either anvil or by-pass blades. There are advantages to both.



Anvil Blades

Efficient cutting action.
For dry, hard and old growth.

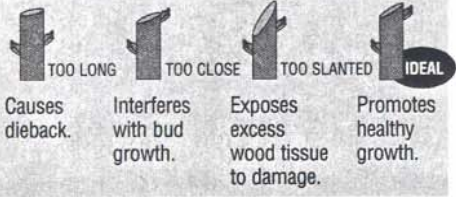


By-Pass Blades

Precise clean flush cuts.
Ideal for new green growth.

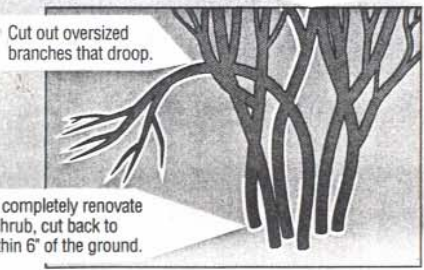
5. The proper cut.

Pruning new growth is easy. Position the cut to a bud as new growth comes from the buds. Be careful not to make the cut too close or far away from a bud. With by-pass pruners, position the hook to the discarded side of the branch so as not to damage the bark of the remaining branch.

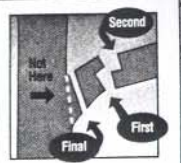
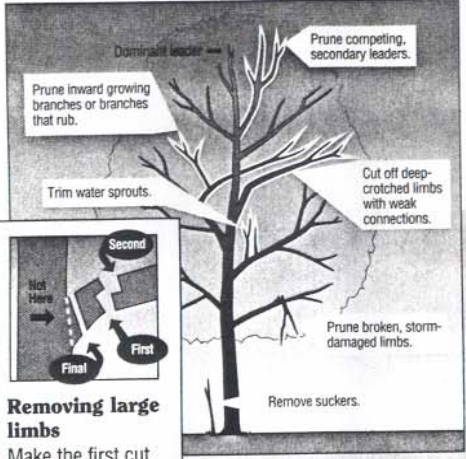


6. Pruning shrubs.

Prune shrubs first to remove dead or damaged branches. Next prune to improve the shrub's shape. Trim older stems to the ground to allow room for new branches.



7. Pruning trees.

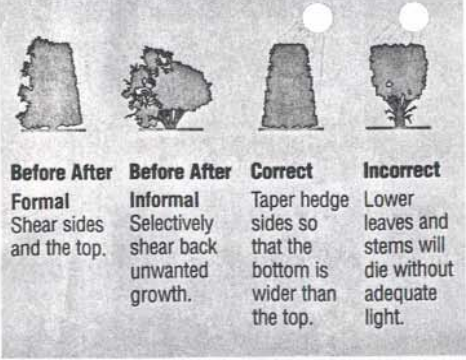


Removing large limbs
Make the first cut from below. Cut the limb several inches beyond the first cut. Cut the remaining limb at an angle so that the bark collar remains intact.

Some simple guidelines to make your trees a healthier, more attractive part of your yard.

8. Trimming hedges.

Hedges may require trimming several times a year to maintain proper form and growth.



9. Safety.

Don't take chances when it comes to safety. Use common sense. If on a ladder, be sure of your footing. Keep hands away from cutting areas at all times and wear leather gloves. Always wear eye protection. And remember to never cut around power lines.



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