

CORRECTIVE PRUNING

PRUNING GUIDELINES

EVERY CUT MUST HAVE A PURPOSE.

Make the fewest number of cuts possible.

Remove dead wood, crossed and rubbing limbs and inward facing clutter.

Consider the natural growth habit and know the effect that pruning will have on it.

Thinning cuts result in the most natural appearance of shrubs.

When in doubt, look it up:

When you prune can affect this year's flower and fruit production.

Is "Renewal Pruning" an option for this type of plant?

Standard recommendation in the reference book for pruning a plant may not apply based on the age, location, and the reason for pruning it.

Aesthetic Considerations:

- Don't leave ugly stubs that will die. Hide cuts behind other foliage.
- Prune foundation shrubs level with the house, not parallel to a slope.
- Tree-formed shrubs should have a canopy in scale with the trunks.
- Allow mass plantings of a single type of plant to grow into one visual mass.
- The bottom of an evergreen should be the broadest part to avoid shading out growth at the base of the plant.

APICAL DOMINANCE

Plant hormones (auxins) produced at the tip of each branch will suppress growth of dormant buds below. By pruning off the tip of the branch, you stimulate new growth of **directly below where you make the cut**. Cut just above a branch or bud that you want to encourage.

HEADING CUTS vs. THINNING CUTS

Heading cuts reduce the length of a branch.

- Result is bushier plant, multiplying the number of branches.
- Avoid heading cuts on heavy branches or tree limbs.
 - Creates large wounds not equipped to heal
 - Permanently alters form and creates ugly winter appearance.
- Repeated shearing results in an overly dense exterior and no interior foliage
 - Follow up with thinning cuts where necessary.

Thinning cuts remove a whole branch where it originates (or deep inside the plant).

- Results in more natural form and more compact plant
- Reduces the number of branches, allowing light penetration and air circulation
- Reduces overall size without leaving ugly stubs visible
- **Minor touchups with thinning cuts can be done any time of year without affecting the bloom on the untouched branches.**

RENEWAL PRUNING or RENOVATION PRUNING of broadleaf shrubs:

Many severely overgrown shrubs can be renewed by pruning to within 6 to 12 inches of the ground including hollies, cleyeras, osmanthus, azaleas, ligustrums, & beautyberries. This is best done just before the spring growth spurt to restore appearance quickly. Do not attempt this with conifers, needle leaf evergreens.

RECOMMENDED PRUNING TOOLS

Pruner - bypass blade is preferred for a cleaner cut on live wood than anvil type.

Lopper – A short one with a bypass blade is handy. If you are only going to invest in one, make it one with a lever mechanism to multiply your force. These cut branches up to 1-1/2” diameter.

Folding Pruning Saw

Inexpensive and easy to carry & store. Gets into tight spaces between branches where a bow saw will not fit. Easily cuts 2” to 4” diameter branches.

The 10” **Corona Razortooth** quickly cuts on the forward and back stroke and stays sharp for a long time.

Reciprocating Saw used with the “Pruning Blade”

Safer and lighter weight than a chainsaw.

Useful replacement for folding saw when many heavy branches must be cut.

Pole Pruners

The standard extension pole pruner is useful for tall shrubs and young trees but is very heavy.

Fiskars Pruning Stik is lightweight and easy to use. The cutting head can be rotated 240 degrees to make a clean cut. It can also be used while standing for making precise cuts near the ground.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.walterreeves.com/landscaping/shrub-pruning-calendar/>

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