

Pruning

TIPS

Pruning is an important gardening skill. Always use proper tools that are clean and sharp. By pruning you encourage healthy growth of your shrubs and trees.



WHEN TO PRUNE

- Best to prune shrubs and trees is when they are dormant. September to December and February to April.
- Do not prune Maple or Birch in early spring. The sap bleed to much and can be a host for moulds and fungi.
- Do not prune forsythia, lilac or mock orange in spring or fall you will cut the flower buds off. They should be pruned right after they finish flowering.
- Evergreens and cedars should be pruned in mid May just after the new growth has come out.
- It is illegal to prune elm trees between April 1st and July 31st when the Elm Beetle is active.

STEPS TO PRUNING.

1. Remove any dead, diseased, broken, or suckering branches.
2. Remove any branches that are crossing or rubbing.
3. Prune to desired shape and height.
4. Never remove more then 1/3 of the live branches from a tree.



Before Thinning



After Thinning out

REJUVENATION OF SHRUBS

This method is used for overgrown shrubs that are no longer looking healthy. In early spring before the shrub leaf out prune down to 2-4" inches from the ground. The following shrubs can handle this type of pruning - Potentilla, Dogwood, Lilacs, Hydrangea, Honeysuckle, Mockorange, Weigelia, Viburnum (Cranberries), and Elders. (Picture below on the right is after Pruning Rejuvenation)



HEDGING

Your hedge can be trimmed for major height reductions during spring or fall. General shaping can be done throughout the season to keep it at the desired height.

WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN PRUNING

- Never prune off the top of a tree.
- Never prune shrubs without thinning them out first. Just trimming the tips will eventually give you just top growth and very little leaving lower down.
- Do not prune a newly planted shrub or tree unless it is to remove dead branches.
- Do not damage bark on tree, when removing branches.

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