

Pruning

Clean out dead, damaged or diseased branches at their base or ground level.

Prune out undesirable growth; crossing branches, rubbing branches, suckers and watersprouts (see diagram at right).

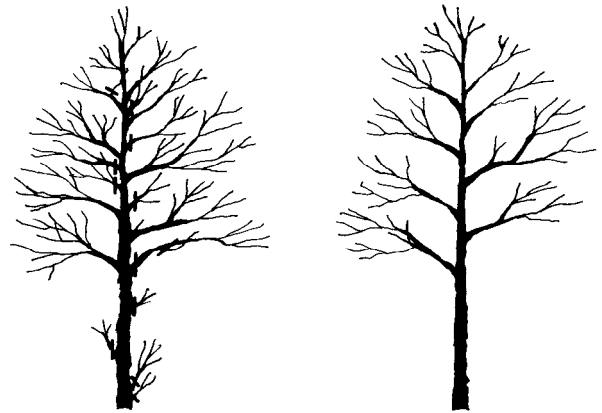
Make cuts on a slant ¼" above the bud. DO NOT leave stubs. When removing branches, cut along (but not into) the "collar" on the main branch or trunk (see diagram below).

Allow the plant to develop into its natural shape by selectively pruning as opposed to shearing. Shearing will create a poorly developed plant that is prone to disease; an exception would be a formal hedge using boxwood.

Clean up or remove all clippings and debris as it will be unsightly and harbor insects and disease.

Tools should be kept sharp to make clean cuts.

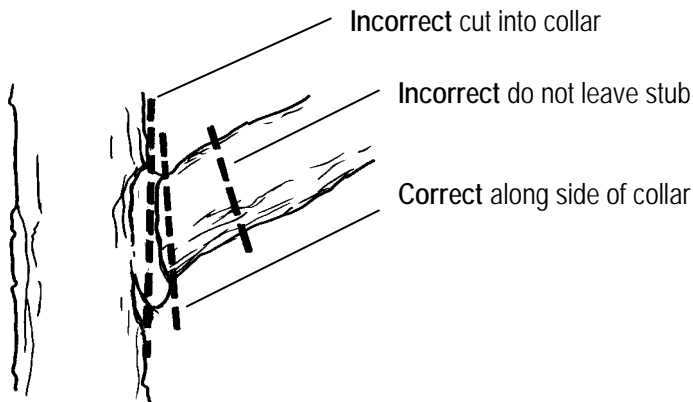
If pruning potentially diseased material, sterilize pruners between cuts using alcohol or a bleach solution.



Remove growth indicated by slash:

- Suckers
- Crossing Limbs
- Bad crotch angles

After pruning



Deciduous Trees

Prune trees when dormant. Prune out all dead, damaged, diseased, and crossing branches and limbs. “Water Sprouts” or suckering growth should be removed as well. Selectively remove any other twigs or branches to reduce overcrowding. When removing branches, cut along (but not into) the “collar” on the main branch or trunk (see diagram above). Also, leave those branches that have the widest angle in the crotch. Most trees have a central leader that should be maintained; the leader should be a foot taller than the side branches.

Evergreen Trees and Shrubs

Evergreen trees should require very little pruning; remove damaged, dead and diseased growth. Prune or thin so that the plant will have a full, natural growth habit. Keep yews, junipers, and dwarf pines open as to allow growth to develop on the inside of the plant. The exception would be a formal hedge of yew or boxwood, which could be sheared. With pines, cut back up to ½ candle growth (new growth that emerges) while it is still soft in early June.

Flowering Shrubs

Most flowering shrubs should be pruned just after flowering (June) to allow for bud and flower development the following year. Other shrubs can be pruned in late fall or early spring (March). Always allow the plant to develop its natural shape. Cut branches, ¼” above an active bud or remove at the base. Plants bearing ornamental fruit should be pruned lightly or pruned in 2-year intervals, allowing fruit to develop.

Tender Roses

In fall after the ground freezes, mulch tender roses with 8-10” of hardwood mulch, covering the crown or graft. In March, uncover tea roses and prune out dead or diseased wood. Throughout growing season, deadhead flowers as they fade. Prune shrub & landscape roses as you would any other shrub.

Perennials and Ornamental Grasses

Prune or remove passing flowers/stalk or dead foliage throughout the season to clean up appearance. Deadheading like this can often encourage rebloom in perennials like Catmint, Phlox or Yarrow. After freeze, in October/ November cut off and remove all the dead foliage. Evergreen perennials, ornamental grasses and perennials with winter interest (i.e. Autumn Joy Sedum or Goldsturm Black-eyed Susan) can be left until March.

Groundcovers and Vines

Cut back any stray or unsightly shoots on Gro-low Sumac and Wintercreeper in June or as needed. In March, if groundcovers are unsightly or winter burned they can be sheared back by hand or with a lawn mower set at a height to remove the bad foliage. Fertilize and water to encourage new growth after pruning.

Pruning Calendar

Perennials and annuals may require periodic pruning throughout growing season to remove unsightly foliage and spent flowers. Refrain from severely pruning trees and shrubs in late summer that will generate new growth, as it will not harden off before winter.

March

All Shade Trees
Arborvitae
Burning Bush
Clematis
Clethra
Groundcovers
Hydrangea
Juniper
Potentilla
Tender Roses
Spirea, summer flowering
Gro-Low Sumac

Perennials

(left for winter interest)
Autumn Joy Sedum
Bath's Pink Dianthus
Black-eyed Susan
Coral Bells
Foam flower
Joe Pye Weed
Siberian Iris
Ornamental Grasses

June

Azalea
Barberry
Bayberry
Chokeberry
Cotoneaster
Crabapple
Currant
Deutzia
Dogwood
Fir
Flowering quince
Forsythia
Magnolia
Mock Orange
Mugo Pine
Pear
Pines
Privet
Rhododendron
Serviceberry
Spruce
Shrub Rose

July

Boxwood
Lilac
Spirea, spring flowering
Viburnum
Yews

October/November (after frost)
cut back perennials and annuals
and remove all the dead foliage;
allow perennials with winter
interest (listed under March) to
remain till March or early spring