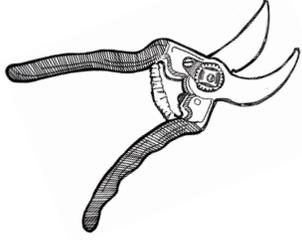


PLANTAMNESTY ▲▲▲ PRUNING BASICS

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THE 4 PRUNING CUTS

Branch Removal Cut

A branch removal cut removes a branch back to a trunk, stem, or to the ground.



Branch Reduction Cut

Branch reduction cuts shorten a branch by taking it back to a lateral branch that is large enough to become the main branch.



These should be most pruning cuts, use to enhance natural beauty and maintain structure.

Heading Cut

Heading cuts are used for specialized pruning such as roses or vines.



Shearing

Shearing should be reserved for hedges or topiary and not for general shrub maintenance.



Heading & Shearing are for special applications only, and can lead to dense growth.

Growth habit determines pruning strategy
Pruning budget determines max amount removable each year

CANE GROWERS & MULTI STEM SHRUBS

Cane-growing shrubs are comprised of branches that arise from the ground. They tend to be taller than they are wide with a vertical or vase-shaped habit. These shrubs are generally tough and withstand heavy pruning.



Examples of Cane-Growing Shrubs

Fatsia
Forsythia
Heavenly Bamboo
Hydrangea
Red-twig Dogwood
Roses
Oregon Grape

Pruning Steps:

- Remove deadwood.
- Thin cane-growing shrubs by removing selected canes.

Pruning Budget:

- The height can be reduced by removing the oldest canes each year and keeping the younger, shorter canes.
- Reduction cuts can be used to reduce the height of well-branched stems by up to 1/4 of the total shrub height.
- Up to 1/3 of the foliage can be removed in one year during annual routine maintenance.

MOUNDING SHRUBS

Mounding shrubs tend to be wider than tall and typically have small leaves and supple branches. Generally, they don't require much pruning except for the odd branch here and there to maintain the overall shape, reduce density, or moderately reduce their size.

Pruning Steps:

- Prune out the deadwood.
- Use the "grab and snip" method: Grab the branch that needs to be cut due to a strange direction or erratic growth, then prune inside the plant with branch removal and reduction cuts.

Pruning Budget:

- The height can be reduced up to 1/4 with success.
- Up to 1/3 of the foliage can be removed in one year.



Examples of Mounding Shrubs

Abelia
Juniper
Burning Bush
Snowberry
Choisya
Escallonia

TREE-LIKE SHRUBS

Tree-like shrubs are those with stiffer, woodier, complex branches that are highly divided like the structure of tree branches. These plants tend to react badly to heavy pruning. Best pruning practice uses branch removal cuts and reduction cuts that preserve the natural branch structure.



Examples of Tree-Like Shrubs

Camellia
Enkianthus
Huckleberry
Lilac
Rhododendron
Strawberry Tree

Prune tree-like shrubs for definition, removing branches that are:

- Tightly parallel branches
- Suckers
- Growing in the wrong direction
- On the ground
- Seriously crossing one another

Pruning Budget:

- Avoid size-reduction pruning problems by installing plants with enough space.
- Prune in moderation- Up to 1/8 to 1/4 of foliage can be removed in one year.

REMEMBER: TREES SHOULD NEVER, EVER BE TOPPED!

If you are interested in more in depth tutorials on pruning as well as videos in Spanish please scan the QR Code to go to our YouTube Channel.

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