

SHRUB PRUNING



Proper pruning is beneficial to the development of a shrub. This guide is intended to describe how to properly prune shrubs for optimal growth, health, and extended bloom periods.

TOOLS

Gloves



Pruners



WHEN TO PRUNE

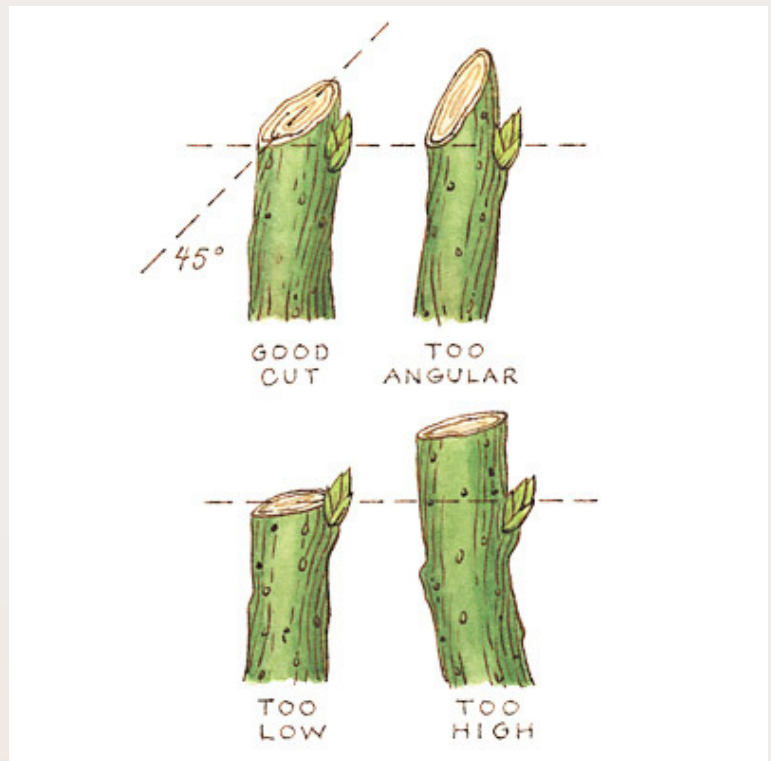
Prune shrubs in Fall through Spring

- Avoid pruning directly before and after rainfall
- Avoid pruning during heat waves (above 85°F)

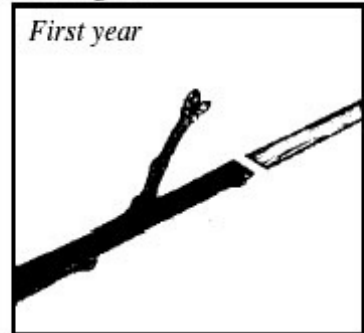


Loppers

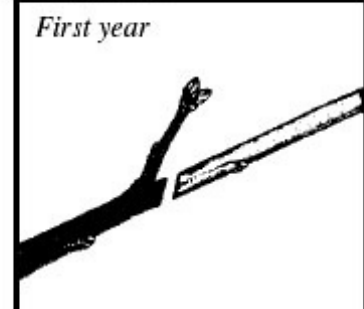
PROPER VS. IMPROPER CUTS



Heading cut



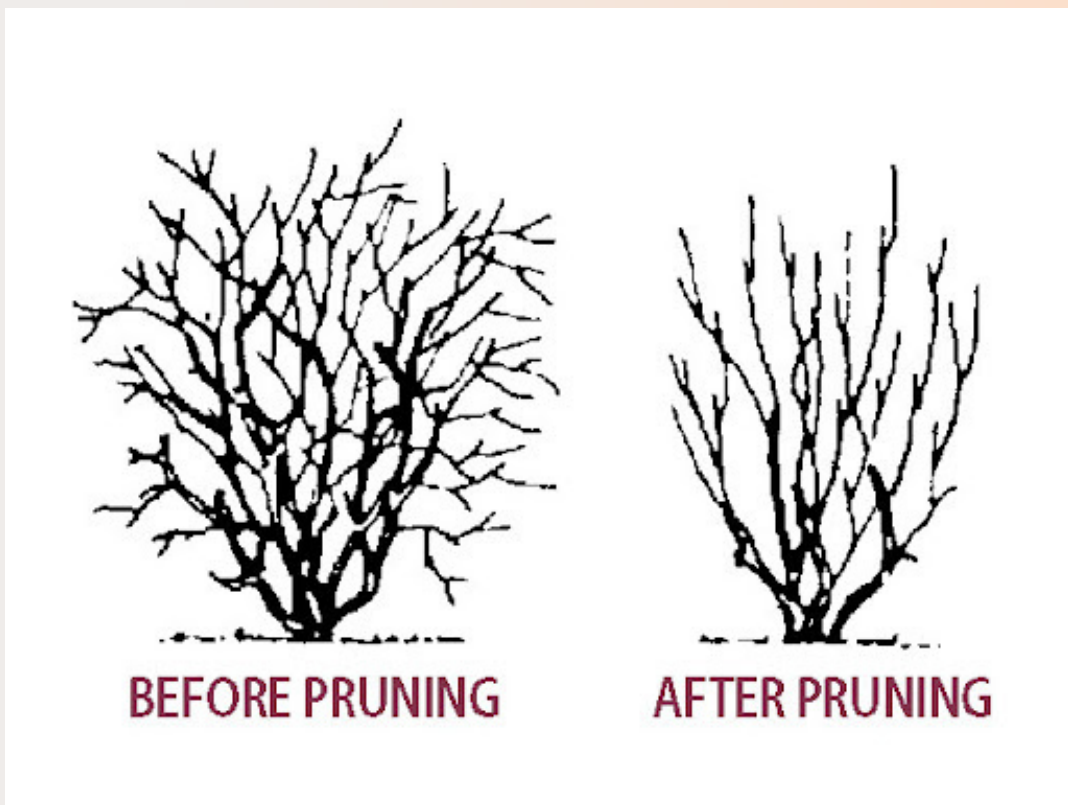
Thinning cut



THINNING VS HEADING CUTS

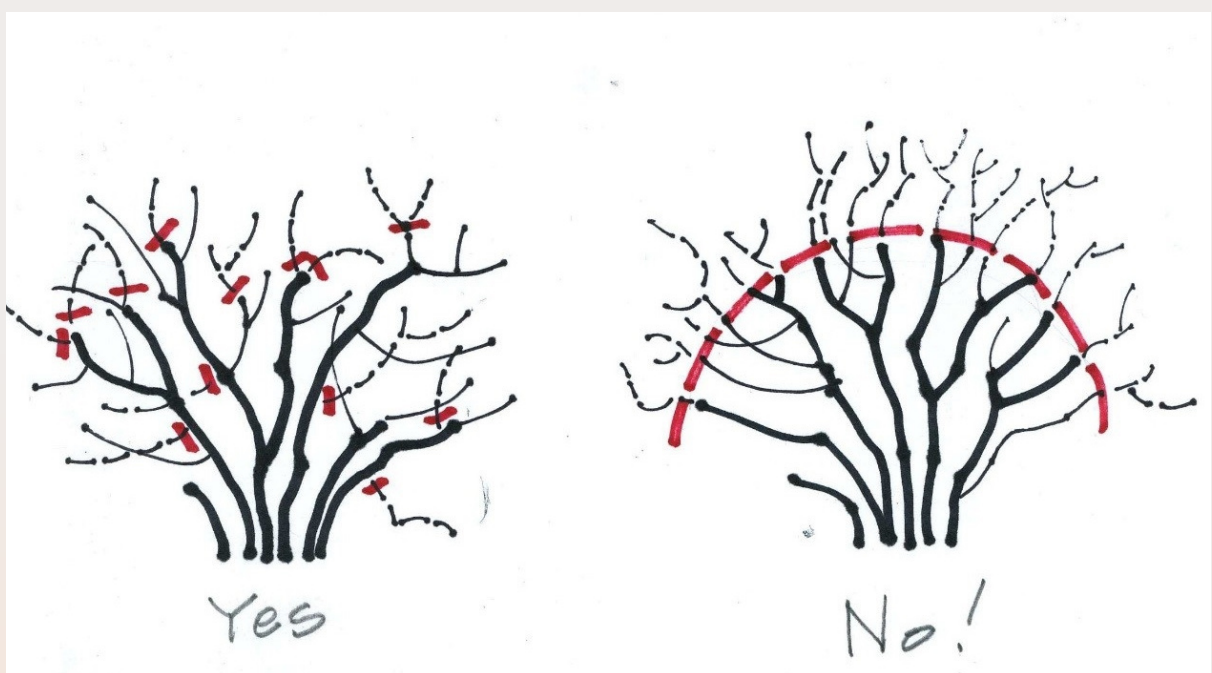
THINNING CUTS

Increase air circulation to the center of the shrub. This allows shrubs to maintain their structure while encouraging new growth. Thinning can include removing older, larger, and heavy branches or newer branches that cause clutter and grow in the wrong direction



HEADING CUTS

Maintain the size of the shrub. With heading, several branches are cut back to a new bud of growth or lateral branch. Do not give the shrub a "haircut" as seen on the right side of the diagram below



PRUNING GRASSES

There are 2 commonly used methods for pruning grasses



Cut back to a couple inches above the base



Rake or pull out clumps of dead and dying grasses

BASIC PRUNING TIPS

1. Remove the 3 D's of Pruning

- Dead
- Damaged
- Diseased

2. Prune branches that are crossing over each other or rubbing

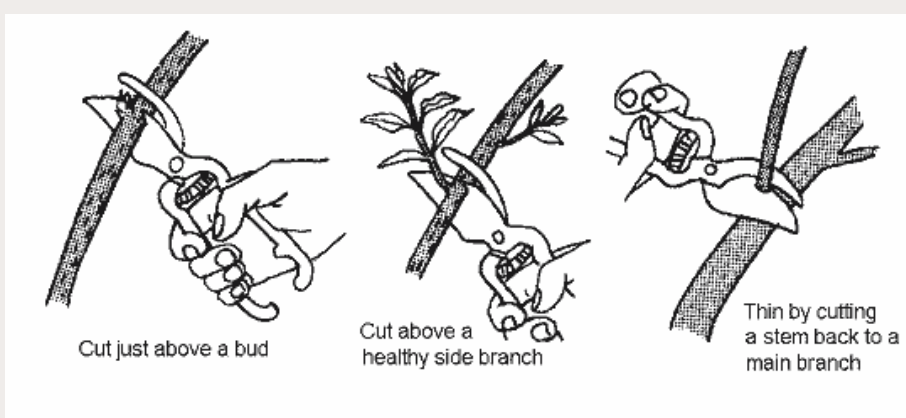
3. Bottom Up Pruning

- start pruning from the bottom of the shrub and work your way up



4. Dead head when flowers begin to die back

- this allows the plant to bloom for longer periods



5. Prune above the bud to encourage new growth

6. Do not prune more than 1/3 of the shrub at one time

7. Direct new growth upward and out from the center of the shrub

