

Altum's

Prune Like a Pro

Pruning Tips

When cutting back small branches make the cut at a 45-degree angle just above a leaf. A new branch will develop from the bud that is at the leaf attachment. The new branch will grow out in the direction that the leaf points. In this way the shape of the plant material can be controlled.

Maintain the natural shape of the plant.

For a trimmed hedge be sure the base is wider than the top to allow light penetration and prevent leaf loss and

Effective Shrub Shaping

Most shrubs can be maintained with a combination of thinning and heading cuts. First step back and visualize the shape you would like the shrub to have.



Start by removing deadwood, then thin out old wood, as well as crossing, rubbing, or crowded branches. Use heading cuts to shorten growth that is too long and to encourage branching.



exposure of the lower branches.

Cut out any inward facing, crossing, or rubbing branches.

Remove some of the older branches on shrubs each year to their point of origin. This will stimulate new growth and improve flowering. This will also increase light penetration and air circulation and help prevent diseases. This is especially good for lilacs.

Remove any dead, damaged or diseased wood as it occurs. If pruning diseased wood, dip pruners in alcohol before pruning any other plant material.



Bypass Pruners should be used to *cut live growth* and will give a smooth, accurate cut, close to the main trunk of the plant.

Altum's

Prune Like a Pro

What to Prune?

- **Damaged or improper growth.** This includes limbs that are rubbing against one another, which will expose irregular surfaces leaving it open to infection.
- **Diseased or insect damaged portions.**
- **Dead limbs, branches, etc.** Pruning dead out of a plant will help ward off disease and insect infestation. How to tell if it is dead? Lightly scrape the branch; a healthy branch will reveal a green layer below the bark.
- **Crowded Stems** Thinning helps encourage new growth, by allowing more light to reach into the shrub. Start by removing old stems that have slowed in their flower production, and then remove some of the youngest stems so the remaining stems have room to grow.
- **Suckers**-vigorous vertical stems that grow around the base of the tree. Remove suckers while they're young-grab them and give a sharp yank sideways ripping them away at their growing point, or cut off as close to the growing point as possible.

Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs

Any tree or shrub that blooms before June, prune after the plant has finished flowering. Do not prune after July, this is when the buds set for next spring

Shrubs

Lilacs
Bridalwreath spirea
Viburnums
Boxwoods
Yews
Burning Bush
Barberry
Weigela
Euonymus

Flowering Trees

Crabapples
Dogwoods
Redbuds
Flowering Cherry
Magnolias except Sweet Bay
Ornamental Pear
Japanese Maple

Altum's

Prune Like a Pro

Hydrangeas

Hydrangeas do not usually need to be pruned, except to remove dead stems and blooms. However, if you feel your hydrangea is getting too large, use one of the two methods:

Method I: For Pink/Blue & Oakleaf hydrangeas

These hydrangeas bloom on old wood-stems that have been on the hydrangea at least 9 to 10 months before the hydrangea blooms). Prune these hydrangeas only in the summer *Before* August (flower buds will begin to set Early Fall-Aug. thru Oct.)

The exception to this rule are the new 'Endless Summer' hydrangeas which bloom on old and new wood, so therefore can be pruned before or after bloom.

Method II: for PeeGee & Annabelle hydrangeas (white)

Cut back in spring before leaves emerge.