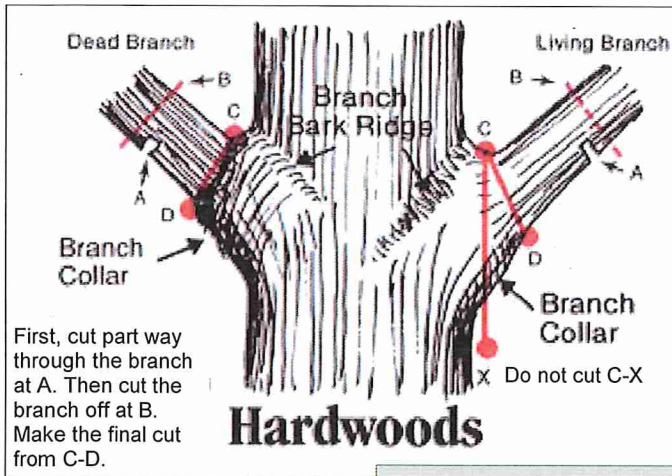
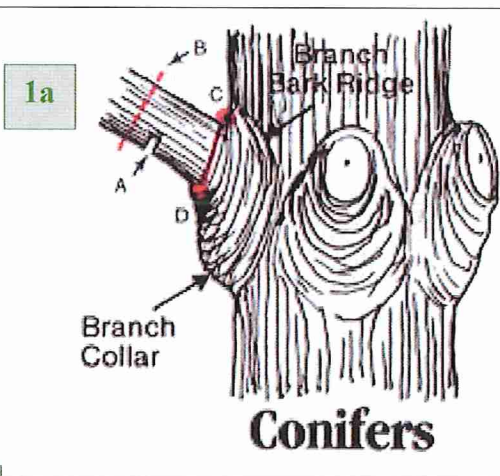


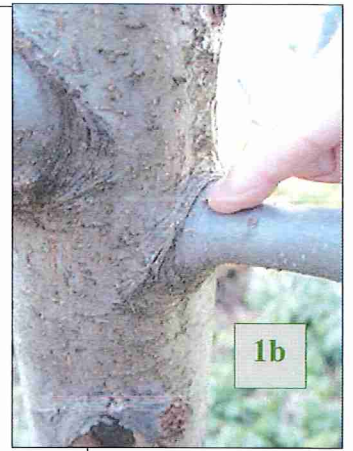
Pruning Principles Illustrations



Hardwoods

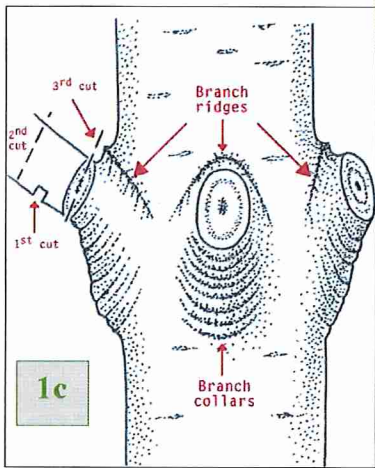


Conifers



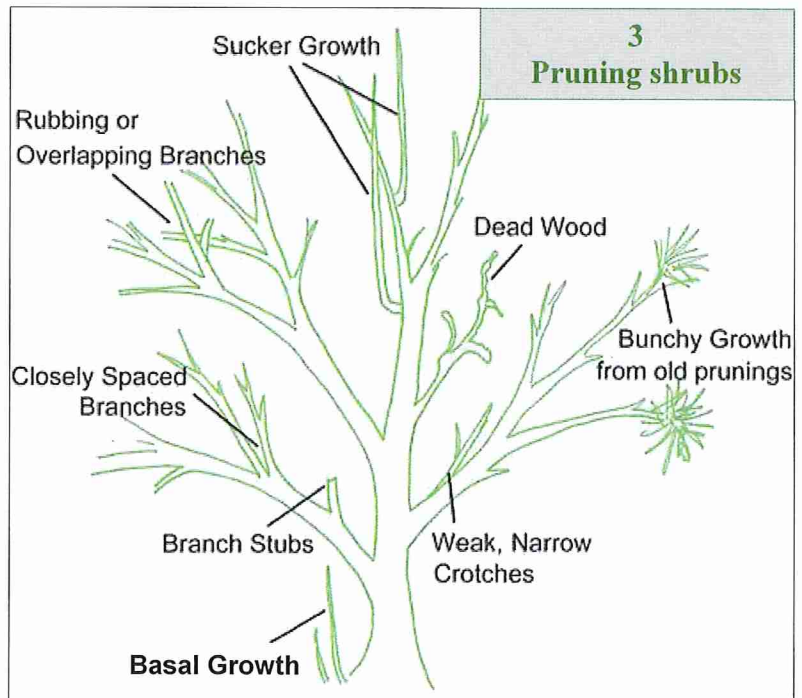
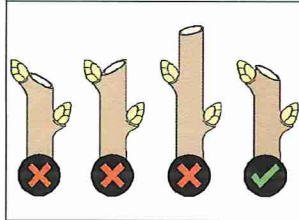
1b

1 a, b, c Pruning tree limbs



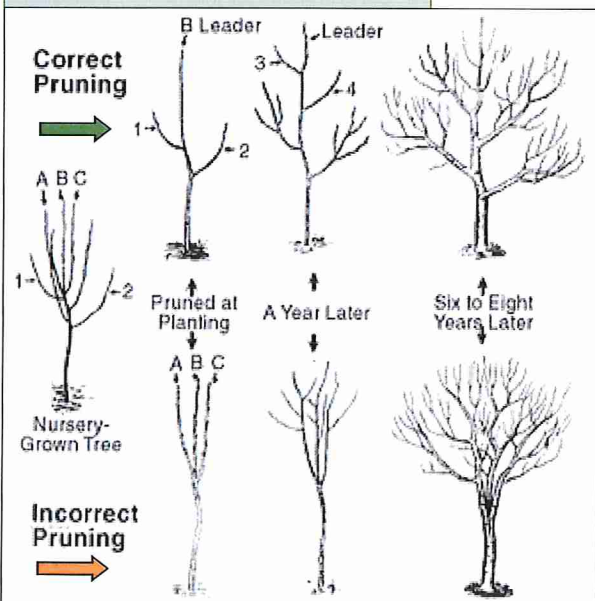
1c

2 Where to cut a limb



3 Pruning shrubs

4 Pruning young trees



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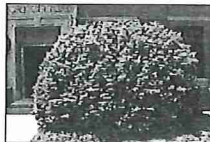


5 Apples



Properly pruned orchard with tree canopy open to the sun

When to Prune



EVERGREENS

(Pine, Spruce, Juniper, Arborvitae, etc.)

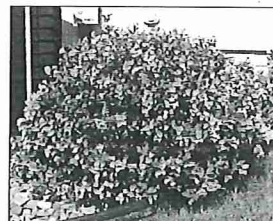
When: During the month of June, after new growth has appeared.

What to cut: No more than 1/3 of the plant in a year.

In fall, ensure evergreens are getting 1" of water a week by rain or by a sprinkler covering a wide area around the plant.

Notes: Be sure to give them a good, thorough soaking right before the ground freezes for winter (sometime around Thanksgiving). This will help prevent "burn" in winter.

Pruning in fall will encourage winter damage.



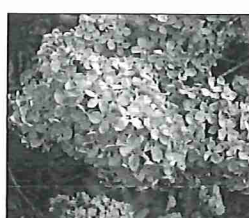
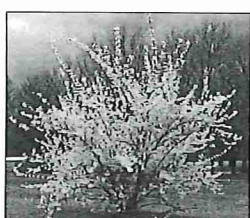
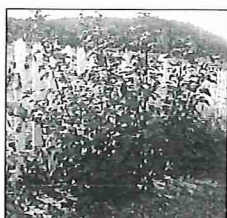
FLOWERING SHRUBS

(Spirea (except Bridal Veil), Barberry, Weigela, Burning Bush, etc.)

When: During dormancy. Typically during dormancy and around Dec. 1 through March 31.

What to cut: No more than 1/2 of the plant in a year.

Notes: Also can be shaped a little bit or deadheaded after bloom has finished to clean the plant up and to promote new growth. You can cut away single "wild hairs" during the growing season before Aug. 15.



Ask about our
"How to Prune guides"

SPRING BLOOMING SHRUBS—These plants generally flower on the last year's stems, commonly referred to as old wood. (Lilac, Forsythia, Bridal Wreath Spirea, Viburnum, Rhododendron, Ninebark, etc.)

When: Prune after bloom in spring has finished. Typically June 1-July 1.

What to cut: No more than 1/2 of the plant in a year.

Notes: These plants set their flower buds in fall for spring bloom so pruning in fall or winter will completely remove flowers.

You can cut away single "wild hairs" during the growing season before Aug. 15.

HYDRANGEAS

Typically leave them alone except for removing dead or drooping branches. Clip off dead blooms Dec.-March.



LARGE LANDSCAPE SHRUBS (Weigela, Cranberry Bush, etc..) – Remove up to 1/3 of the oldest (largest) stems at the base of the plant every 3 years or so after the plant is well established. This will encourage new growth from the base, keeping the plant full and leafed-out from the bottom.



FRUIT TREES, GRAPES, BLUEBERRIES, CRABAPPLES

When: During dormancy. Typically during dormancy and around Dec. 1 through March 31.

What to cut: No more than 20% of the plant in a year.

Notes: Ask for specific pruning guides for different fruits showing more detail.



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Renewal Pruning of Shrubs

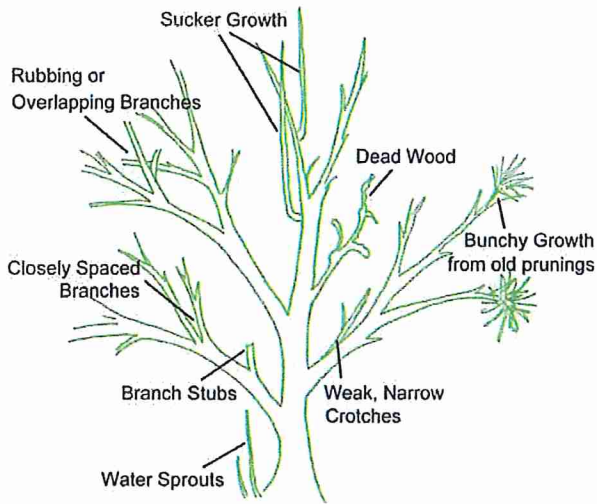
Reduce the size of a shrub & stimulate more flowering & bark color

Renewal pruning is a process that takes about 3 years. About one-third of older wood is removed each season over 3 years, primarily by using thinning cuts back to the crown (ground) or main stem. This approach maintains the overall shape of the shrub while reducing its volume and height over time. In response, and as light is allowed to penetrate the canopy, many new shoots may be initiated.

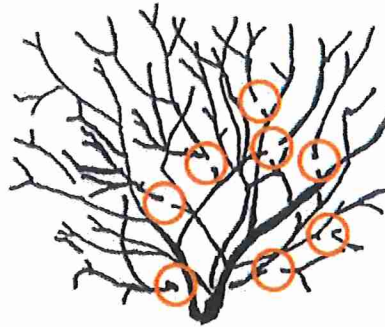
Avoiding the problem of overgrown shrubs is easy to do with a little annual maintenance. First and foremost, make sure to fit the plant to the site. Don't force a shrub species to fit into a space that is too small for its natural growth pattern or vigor. Then maintain the proper size of shrubs using appropriate thinning and heading cuts as needed to manage shrub growth, size and health.

Maintenance

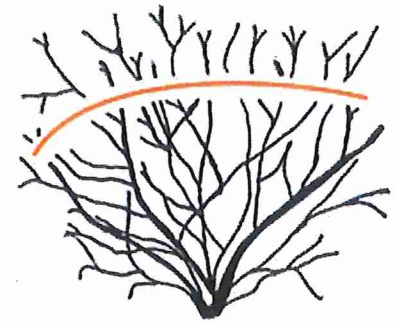
Maintenance areas to watch



Maintenance Thinning vs. Heading Back



Thinning reduces size & improves light penetration.

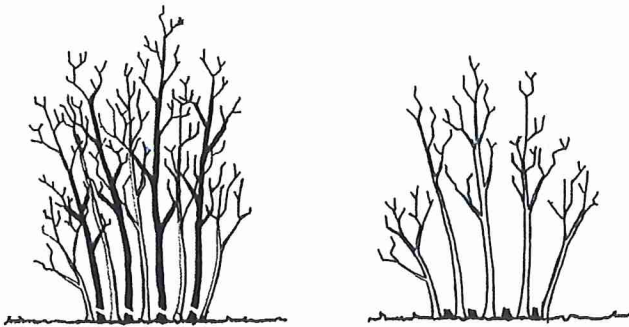


Although heading back reduces the height of the shrub, it generates bunched growth at the cut therefore reducing the amount of light penetrating the plant. This leads to thinning at the base of the shrub.

Renewal

When renewing a large, overgrown shrub remove 1/3 of the largest or oldest stems each year, over a 2 to 3 year period. After that, maintain the shrub on a yearly basis removing one or two of the largest or oldest stems and follow the maintenance practices shown above.

Renewal Pruning Before & After

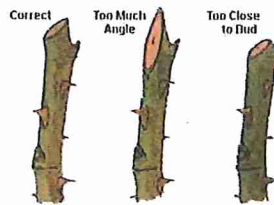


Remove the targeted stems at the base of the plant.

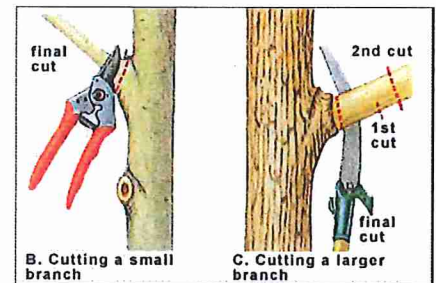
Good candidates for renewal pruning

Alpine Currant	Dogwood	Ninebark
Amur Maple	Euonymus	Potentilla
Barberry	Flowering Almond	Purple Leaf Sandcherry
Boxwood	Forsythia	Snowberry
Chokeberry	Hydrangea	Spirea
Clethera	Lilac	Viburnum
Cononeaster	Honeysuckle	Weigela
	Mockorange	Willow

Making the Cut

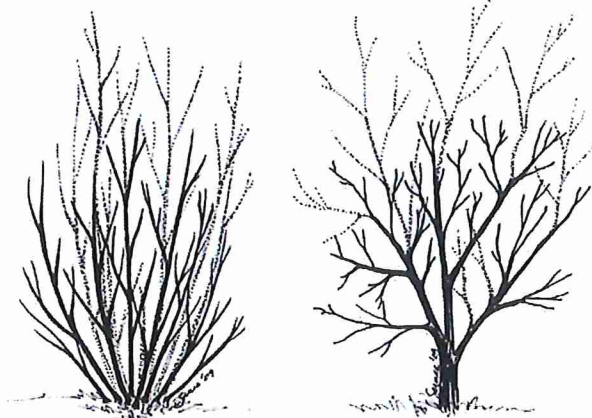


Cut branches near the next bud at an angle so water runs off.



Use pruners for branches no larger than the size of your thumb then move up to a saw.

Renewing a shrub with many stems at the base or a single-stem



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Pruning Evergreens

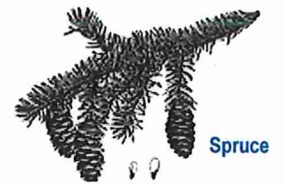
With few exceptions, evergreens (conifers) require little pruning. Different types of evergreens should be pruned according to their varied growth habits.

Spruce and fir don't grow continuously, but can be pruned any time because they have lateral (side) buds that will sprout if the terminal (tip) buds are removed. It's best to prune them in late winter, before growth begins. Some spring pruning, however, is not harmful.

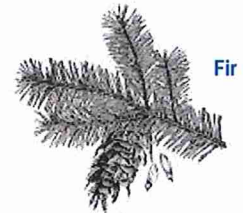
Pines only put on a single flush of tip growth each spring and then stop growing. Prune before these "candles" of new needles become mature and fully extend. The time to do this is usually late May or early June. Pines do not have lateral buds, so removing terminal buds will take away new growing points for that branch. Eventually, this will leave dead stubs. Pines seldom need pruning, but if you want to promote more dense growth, remove up to 2/3 of the length of newly expanded candles. Also remove dead and damaged limbs or those posing a danger. Don't prune further back than the current year's growth.

Arborvitae, junipers, yews, and hemlocks grow continuously throughout the growing season. They can be pruned any time from spring through the middle of summer but not past the end of July. Even though these plants will tolerate heavy shearing, their natural form is usually most desirable, so prune only to correct growth defects.

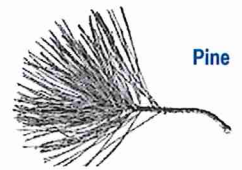
On arborvitae, when heavy pruning is necessary, prune before new growth begins in early spring so that new growth conceals pruning cuts. To lower the height (no more than 20 percent) of a plant, cut back to a lower branch crotch, making cuts only into live wood. To regain the natural shape of the plant, balance lower limbs by lightly pruning branch tips. Older arborvitae growing in shade will develop a dead zone that is incapable of regenerating new growth. Do not prune into this area.



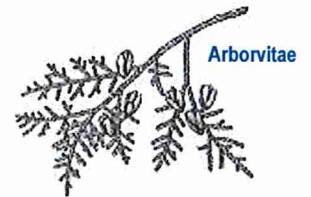
Spruce



Fir



Pine



Arborvitae



Juniper

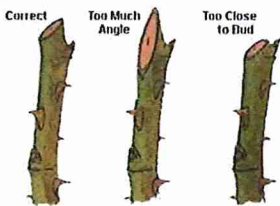


Yew

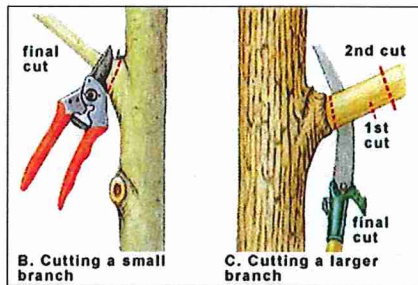


Hemlock

Making the Cut



Cut branches near the next bud at an angle so water runs off.



Use pruners for branches no larger than the size of your thumb then move up to a saw.

Winter Burn on Evergreens

Wait until spring before deciding how to care for your winter burned plants. If leaves are dead but buds and stem tissue near dead foliage are still alive, new plant foliage will regrow to replace winter burned foliage. On the other hand, if buds and stem tips were damaged, branches should be pruned back to 1/4" above a bud in the live portion of the plant. In severe cases the entire plant may have died and plant removal and replacement will be necessary.

To prevent winter burn

Keep evergreens properly watered **throughout the entire growing season until ground freezes**. Initial soil freeze in Minnesota typically occurs in late November/early December. When watering established evergreens, use a sprinkler to water a wide area around the plant rather than running a hose at the base of it. This way the extensive feeder roots and the surrounding landscape will be properly hydrated.

Also maintain a 3-4" layer of organic mulch around evergreens to help retain soil moisture throughout the growing season. As this mulch breaks down, it will also improve your soil's moisture-holding capacity. Finally, protect plants in highly exposed sites during winter with burlap, board tents, snow fencing, or other materials to prevent too much exposure to sun or wind.

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