Penn State **Extension**

Pruning Ornamental Plants

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CONTENTS

[illegible] 2
[illegible] 3
[illegible] 3
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....

[illegible] ....
☒ [illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible]
[illegible] ....
[illegible]

Small fowering trees

[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....
[illegible] ....

PRUNING MYTHS

- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

☒ ☒ a a b a ☒ c
b a c

- Creates weak top growth on the outside edge of
a a b a a ☒
- Shades the interior of the the of the the ple if pagt

REASONS TO PRUNE

1. *T a a a a a b a, a , a a , a , - a .* G a a a clean. Deadwood in a plant is a food source for ca a c a .
2. *T a a b , bb , b , w a , w b a .* T c , a a , c a ca a a a a cc a b.
3. *T a a a a a a .* P ca a a - a ca b b , b a c c , a b b a a c a a , a b a c a a a b c a b c b a a a , c , a , a a .
4. *T a a a a .* A - a ca b c a c a ' a a a (. ., a a a a a). S c c c c c .
5. *T a a , a a w a a a w w .* P a a b a . T a a a b .
6. *T a a a , a , a - , a a w .* S a a c a a c a a c a a .
7. *T a w a .* O b c a , , a ac, a a ' b . T , a a b a a c c a a a . F , a a c c c a . I c ca a a b a .
8. *T a a a a a , a a w a , a a a ' w a .* F , a c . R c . P a a a c b a a - b a a b a a . S c a c ac ba a a .

PRUNING TOOLS

A a b, c c c b a c b ; a . A a a a a ab , a c b a . O a a c a c a ; a c a a a ca ac a ca acc . T b a ca a , a b a . K c b b ca a , c a , a c .

W c ca a a a , b a a a ca a a , c a 70 c bb a c 10 c b ac , c . A a , a a ca b ca a , a , b . T c ac - a a a a a a - . I a b , c b a a a . T , , a more disinfestant onto the tool. Let it drain and air- a a 10 . T a a a a a a . M b a a a a a a a a c a .

Hand pruners

A a a c , a a a a a c c . Ha c a a a a c a a 6- 9- c a (F 2). Ha a c b a c c a . Ha c c -ac (b a) b a a a . T b a b a a .

A ba ☒ ba a a ☒☒
c a a c a ca ☒
b a ☒ c ☒ c a b
ca a ☒ b a c ☒☒ ☒b .
I a ☒ , ☒ a a ☒ b a a
a ac ☒ .

Lopping shears

T ☒- a a ☒ 16- ☒ 30- c
a ☒ a - c b a c (
☒ 1 c a) (F 2). O a ☒
a c a a a a
, ☒ a ☒ ☒ a ☒
a a ☒ c . I c ☒☒ ☒ ,
☒ c c☒ b
c ca ☒ a ☒ ☒ .

Pruning saws

C☒ ☒ ☒ b a c ☒ 1 c a
(F 2), a c☒ a a ☒ a
a ☒ ☒ c ☒ b ☒ ,
b a ☒ ac a c , a ☒ a

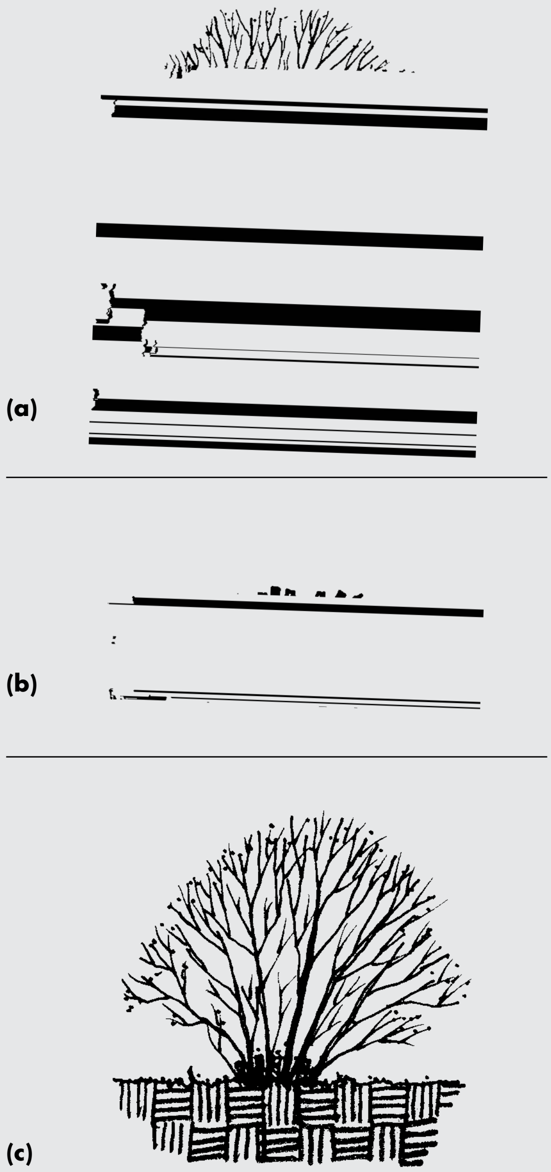

Figure 4. Rejuvenation of an old flowering shrub (a) can be achieved by pruning all stems to within 4 to 6 inches of the ground (b). This severe pruning will result in a smaller and dense plant with vigorous new stems (c) that may require thinning to reduce branch rubbing and assure air circulation through the shrub later in the season.

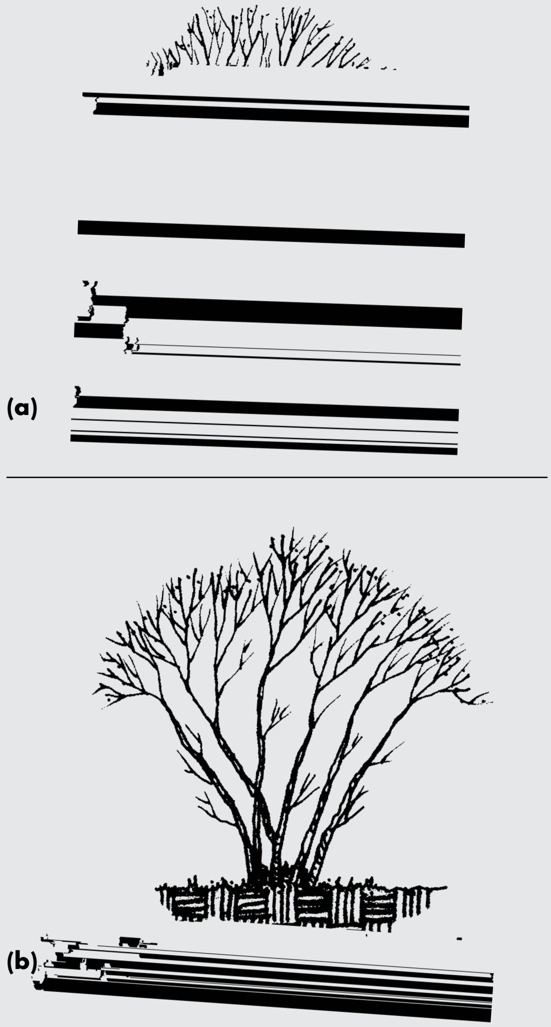

Figure 5. Old flowering shrubs (a) can be renewed by the selective removal of older stems by thinning the stems back to the soil line (b).

[illegible]

Figure 6. A proper thinning cut will remove a tree branch without cutting through the branch collar, ensuring that the wound will close completely and reduce the chance for rot or insect damage to the tree.

[illegible]

Reduction cuts

[illegible]

Heading cuts

[illegible]

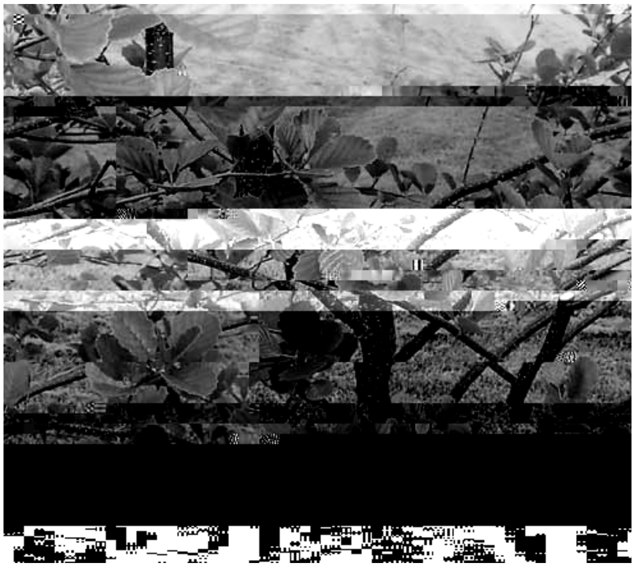

Figure 7. A proper reduction cut made on a black alder in the landscape.

[illegible]

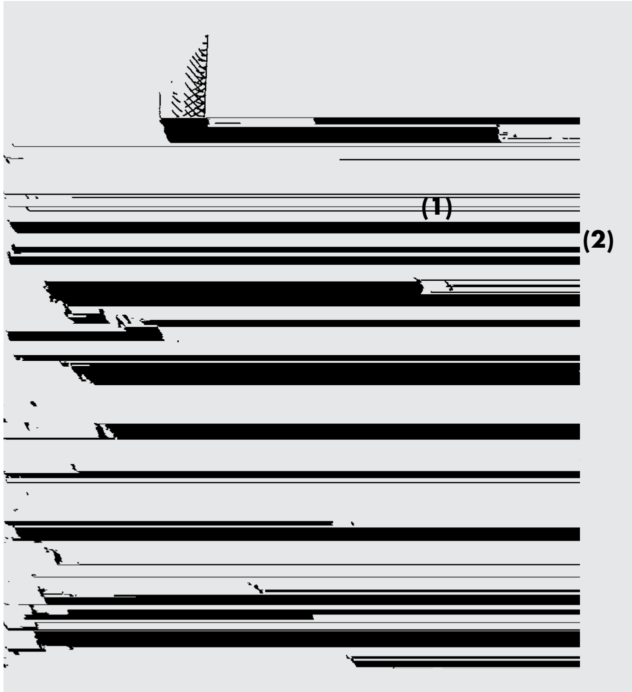

Figure 8. A heading cut should be made back to a bud. Selectively choosing to cut above a bud allows you to direct where the new growth will arise. The inward-pointing bud (1) will produce growth inward, resulting in dense interior growth and the potential for crossing branches; the outward-pointing bud (2) will give rise to outward growth, allowing the shrub to appear more open assuring air flow, interior foliage, and fewer crossing and rubbing branches. Directing the plant's future growth through pruning is called directional pruning.

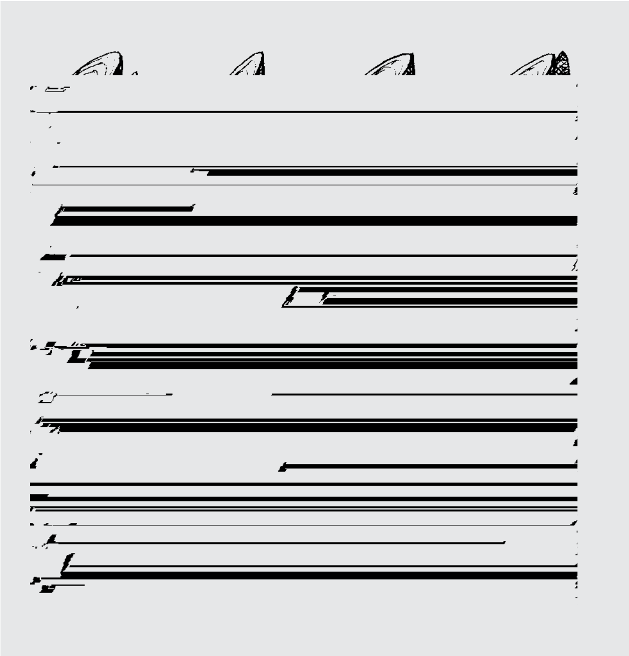

Figure 9. A proper heading cut should be about ¼ inch above an active bud and at about a 30-degree angle.

[illegible]

Three cut method for removing large limbs

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

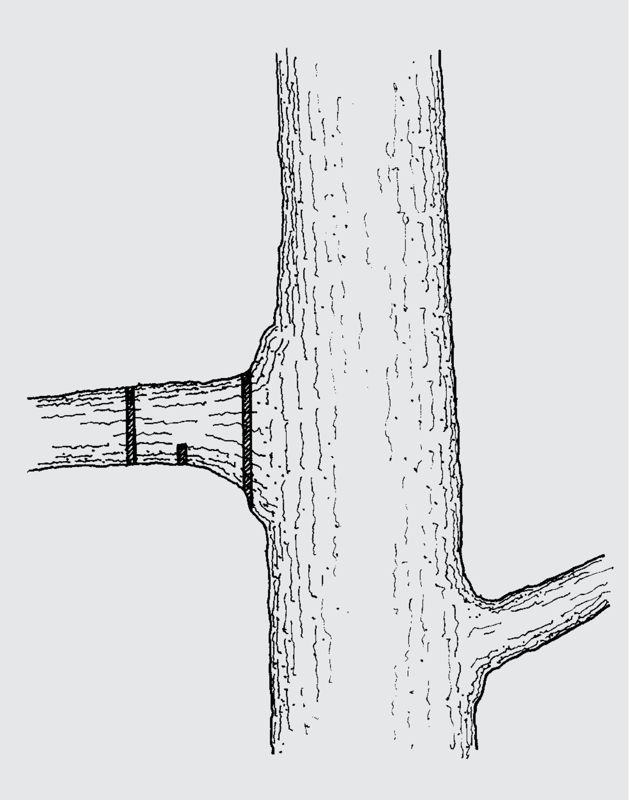

Figure 10. Removing larger branches safely and avoiding greater injury to the tree requires three cuts. The first cut (a) is made from the bottom of the limb about 10 to 12 inches from the trunk. The second cut (b) is from the top, 3 to 4 inches out from the first cut. The third cut is down and out from the branch collar, thus removing the remaining stub and ensuring that the pruning wound closes properly.

WHEN TO PRUNE

Deciding when to prune is almost as difficult for some [illegible]

- [illegible]

[illegible]

- [illegible]

PRUNING DECIDUOUS SHRUBS AND TREES

Deciduous shrubs

T ☒ , a , b a c
a , a ☒ a ☒ b
a ☒b ☒ ☒ ☒
c a ab c ☒ ☒ (Tab
1). T a a ☒ c ca
b ☒ ☒ ☒a a c ☒
b ☒b . R a ☒ a a
ca b ☒ ☒a ☒ ☒ ☒
b , a a ca ☒ ☒ a -
a ☒ a . S a ca b ☒c a -
a a a , , a ☒ a a a ☒ a
☒ a a ab c ☒ a b
a ☒ ☒ a ac a
ca ☒ a a a ☒☒ .

Dormant-season pruning may remove too many
☒ b , a ☒ ☒
a a ☒ c a ☒ ☒ a ☒ .
I ☒ a ☒ ☒ a c ☒ a a , b -
☒ ☒ a a ☒ . T -
c a c ☒ a . T ac ☒ ☒ a
a a ☒ ☒ ☒ ☒ a c-
☒ a . I a ☒ a a

Table 1. Pruning techniques for shrubs that can be applied based on flowering time and plant form.

DECIDUOUS SHRUB	FLOWERING TIME[1]	PINCHING[2]	REJUVENATION[3]	RENEWAL[4]	THINNING[5]	HEADING CUT[6]	REMARKS
Almond, flowering							
Butterfly Bush	summer		x-annually		x		

Shade trees

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Small flowering trees

[illegible]

[illegible] branches should be removed early. Later, as the tree [illegible]

Pruning recommendations

[illegible]

[illegible] *(E[illegible])*
[illegible] *(P[illegible])*
[illegible] *(Ma[illegible])*

[illegible]

Broadleaf evergreen shrubs

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Narrowleaf evergreen shrubs

[illegible]

[illegible] son before growth begins. Dormant-season pruning is [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

PRUNING VINES

Dutchman's pipe

SPECIALTY PRUNING

Hedges

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] (F 11).

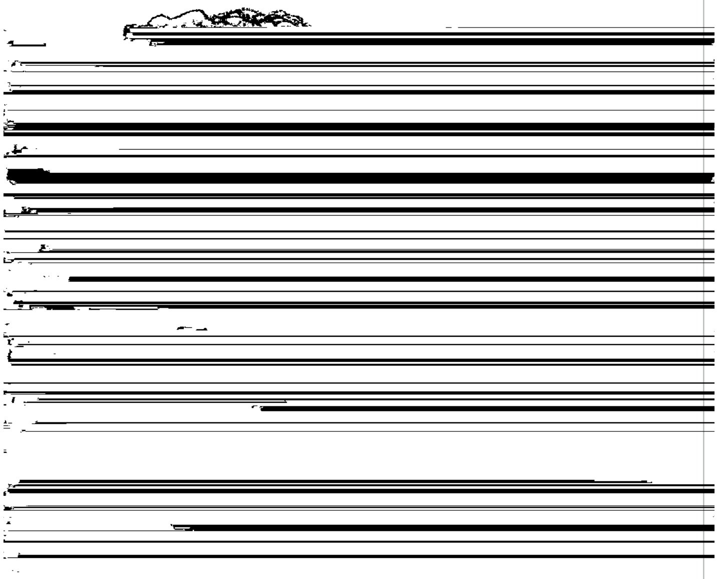

Figure 11. A properly pruned hedge will be narrow at the top and wider at the bottom. The purpose of a hedge is to act as a visual screen. This is achieved by maintaining dense foliage on the outer shell of the hedge. The interior of most hedges are leafess.

Espalier

[illegible] (F 12).

Topiary

[illegible]

PRUNING ROSES

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] lar’ and ‘Dorothy Perkins’) flower on 1-year-old canes [illegible] 15 [illegible]

[illegible] canes rather than from the soil line. Like group 1 [illegible]

[illegible] ‘Kiftsgate’ and ‘Wedding Day’) are very vigorous [illegible] 20 [illegible]

BASIC SAFETY RULES FOR PRUNING

- For large trees or for jobs you don’t have the [illegible]
- Keep all equipment sharp and in good repair.
- Use equipment only for the job it was designed to [illegible].
- Do not prune near electrical lines. Call in a pro- [illegible]
- If a power line is touching a tree limb, call the [illegible]
- Never climb a tree without a safety rope and [illegible].
- Don’t work off a ladder.
- Keep your fingers clear when using hand clippers.
- Use care in handling pruned limbs and brush to [illegible].
- Don’t use a chain saw over your head or with only [illegible].

PRUNING DON'TS REVIEWED

[illegible]

- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]
- [illegible]

[illegible]

- [illegible]

PRUNING TERMINOLOGY

- **Adventitious**

- **Root collar [illegible] trunk flare** [illegible]
- **Root pruning** [illegible]
- **Scaffold branch** [illegible]
- **Shearing** [illegible]
- **Stub cut** [illegible]
- **Sucker** [illegible]
- **Thinning** [illegible]
- **Thinning cuts** [illegible]
- **Topping** [illegible]
- **Water sprout** [illegible]
- **Wound wood** [illegible]

Notes

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