

STG tip

WHY SHOULD WE PRUNE?

Do all plants need regular pruning?

Most plants do benefit from being pruned as it helps keep them healthy and live longer.

- Flowering annuals are pruned to extend flowering season.
- Shrubs are pruned to keep them neat and tidy.
- Trees are pruned to remove damaged limbs or for safety reasons.
- Grass is pruned... we call this mowing.
- Orchids are pruned to remove spent flowers.
- Strappy plants like Liriope are rarely, if ever, pruned.

Are natives pruned?

The vast majority of native plants benefit from being pruned. Tip pruning after flowering is the recommended method to keep your plants performing their best.

For what reasons should pruning be done?

Dead, dying and diseased leaves, stems or flowers should be pruned off plants immediately. Pruning can help improve flowering for the following season.

By removing spent flowers, the plant does not put its energy into creating seeds – this can now be redirected into more flowers and longevity. Branches and leaves that block or interfere with pathways and driveways should be pruned.

Thinning of flowers and fruit off highly productive trees will result in larger fruit at harvest time.

Are any tools sufficient for pruning?

Pruning and sawing tools need to be sharp.

Tools need to be clean from any debris or possible disease spread.

Tools need to be comfortable to use and ergonomic. They should last a long time without rusting or breaking apart. •

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