



LAWRENCE Landscape

Pruning - keep is simple!

It is important NOT to prune many of your new shrubs and trees. Most, if not all, the plants we install in your home landscape have been cared for by nursery personnel and are in top shape. They have all been pruned to achieve their individual plant character and should require no pruning from the homeowner for two to three years. If you do want to do light pruning to maintain a very formal, symmetrical shape, you can prune off some of the evergreen new growth (as with yews and boxwood). However, we don't recommend this, as that new growth will soon even out as the plant "grows into" it.

The only instance where pruning is absolutely necessary in new shrubs and trees is when a plant is damaged. Always prune off any damaged or dead limbs when you find them. They can promote decay, pests and further damage if not removed. Use very sharp pruners with smaller limbs and always cut at a clean angle. For larger limbs, you can use loppers or simply call Lawrence Landscape. If you are unsure what to do, call us and we can give you a quick consultation to put your mind at ease. Trees are an investment- they improve your home's character, energy efficiency and beauty. Don't put them at risk!

Blooming Shrubs

It is always a safe bet to prune your blooming shrubs immediately after blooming. For early spring bloomers like forsythia and lilac, after they bloom, they will begin to set buds for next year. If you wait until summer or fall to prune them, you will cut off next year's blooms! Summer blooming shrubs (roses, rose of Sharon, and hydrangea) can be pruned back in the fall, as they set blooms on new wood. This means they will put on new growth each spring and then set their buds for a summer bloom. The old adage of "prune in the fall" is not always correct!

Numerous other blooming shrubs, such as ninebark, spirea, viburnum, weigela and potentilla, can often be sheared back during the hot summer months. Use shears and just cut them back (to about 1' for smaller shrubs, a bit taller for your bigger shrubs). This will encourage lots of new, lush growth and is only recommended for the plants that might get ragged looking in the summer heat!

Broadleaf Evergreens

Boxwood and hollies are a homeowner favorite. They really don't need much more than a yearly pruning touch up. Leaving them to their natural shape is easiest, and in the first few years, they should not require much more than that. Hollies can get large, so you may want to take off some width or height at some point. Feel free to call us to help you maintain any of your larger shrubs!