

NORTHERN *Gardener* CREATING & CARING FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Pruning

The novice gardener is often apprehensive about doing any pruning for fear of permanently damaging or killing recently purchased plants. In almost all cases more long term damage results from the lack of pruning than from any pruning that is done. Following a few simple rules should allay any apprehension you may have of pruning and help you to develop and maintain a more beautiful landscape.

WHY PRUNE? Pruning is done for a number of reasons including the following:

1. To remove broken, damaged or diseased branches.
2. To improve branching structure.
3. To thin the branching structure to renew and invigorate the remaining branches.
4. To promote fruit and flower production.
5. To rejuvenate older shrubs and evergreens.

CARING FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ Consult with your nursery professional to select the right trees or shrubs for your particular needs. Trees and shrubs planted in the right place will thrive and need less pruning.

Evergreen Pruning

Proper selection of your evergreen tree or shrub should provide the basic size and shape of the plant that is desired. Pruning of evergreen trees should be minimal after the trees have become established.

Frequent and continuous pruning or shearing evergreen shrubs is necessary to maintain a specific form or formal appearance. The natural form of an evergreen is usually the most desirable, and pruning should be limited to correcting growth defects or maintaining its natural form unless it is being used in a hedge.



Do not cut the terminal leader of an evergreen tree unless it is extremely elongated.

Evergreens that grow continuously throughout the growing season can be pruned at almost any time except late in the growing season. Pruning after August can make the evergreen more susceptible to possible winter injury. Evergreens that grow continuously include

