



Making The Cut:

pruning to maximize plant health and
achieve aesthetic desires

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Agenda

1

Why, What, & When

...do we prune?

2

Live Demonstration

Pruning safety, tools, & strategy

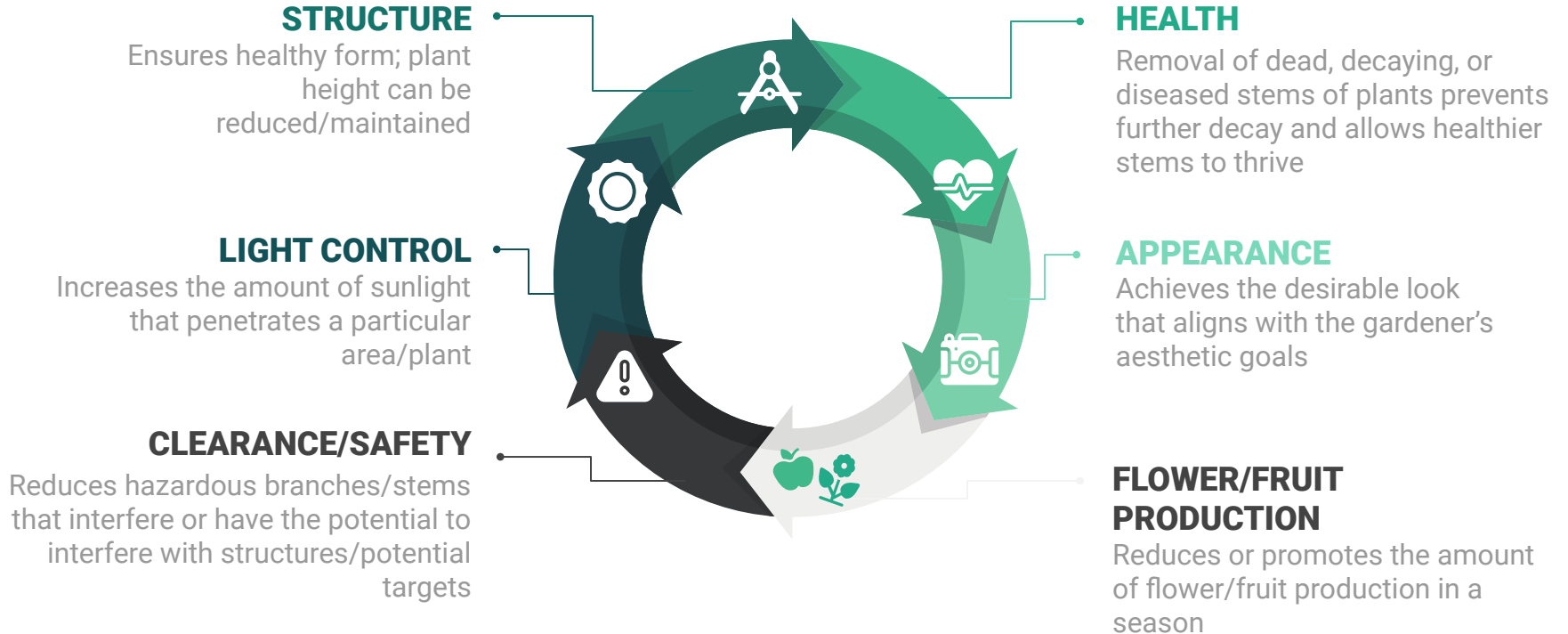
3

Getting Specific

Common Hydrangeas & Roses- how to ID and how to maintain



Why do we prune?





What can we
prune?



TREES

(Oak, Maple, Pine, Spruce,
Linden, Cherry etc.)



SHRUBS

(Holly, Osmanthus, Privet, Butterfly
Bush, Spirea, Rhododendron,
Boxwood, Hydrangea etc.)



**HERBACEOUS
PLANTS**

(Russian Sage, Salvia, Roses, Clethra,
Begonia, Daylily etc.)



GRASSES

(Rushgrass, Switchgrass, Beachgrass,
Lovegrass, Fountaingrass, Bluestem etc.)

The short answer is... anything that grows!



When

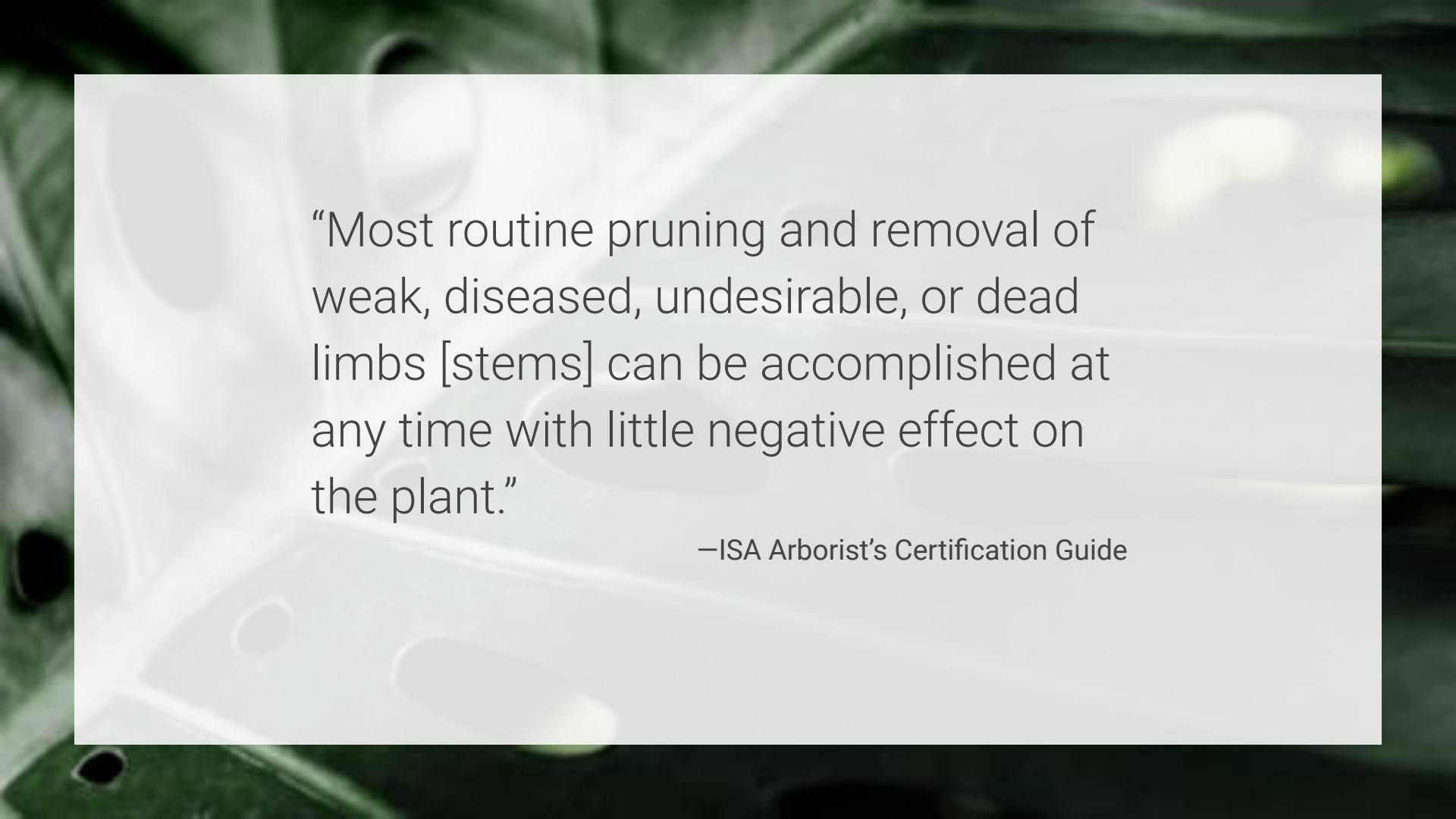
do we prune?





The short answer is... anytime!

While timing can certainly be instrumental in pruning, we can often achieve the results we want at anytime if we are following proper pruning guidelines



“Most routine pruning and removal of weak, diseased, undesirable, or dead limbs [stems] can be accomplished at any time with little negative effect on the plant.”

—ISA Arborist’s Certification Guide

How

do we prune?



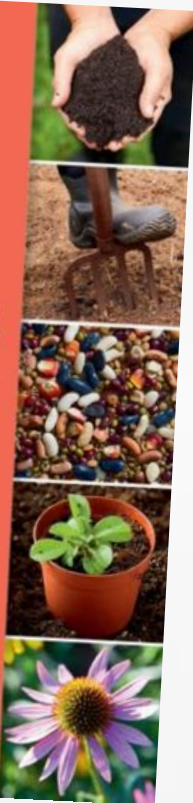
the new gardener's handbook

Grow a Beautiful
& Bountiful Garden

Everything You Need to Know

Daryl Beyers

GARDENING INSTRUCTOR AT THE
NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Cass Turnbull's Guide to Pruning

WHAT, WHEN, WHERE & HOW TO PRUNE FOR A MORE BEAUTIFUL GARDEN



3rd
Edition

Even more
pruning advice
in three new
chapters

From the Garden of Plant Society | Illustrations by Kate Allen

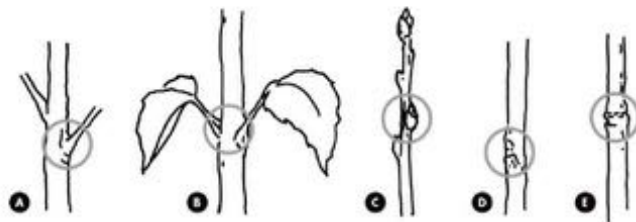


Figure 1.1 Types of nodes. Always cut to a node. A *node* is a place where a bud was or is. **A.** Branch node **B.** Leaf node **C.** Bud **D.** Leaf scar **E.** Bud scale scar

Plants are categorized by their branching pattern into *alternate*, *opposite*, and *whorled* (see [Figure 1.2](#)).

The vast majority of plants are alternate in branching (with branches first to the left and then to the right). Opposite plants (with branches directly opposite one another) are harder to prune because it's difficult to squeeze the tips of your hand pruners into the "V" to cut so as not to leave a stub to die back. A *stub* is the dead section of branch that occurred when the last person didn't cut to the node and so the branch died back. If buds or twigs are opposite each other, just cut off straight and as close to the paired side branches as you can (see [Figure 1.3](#)).

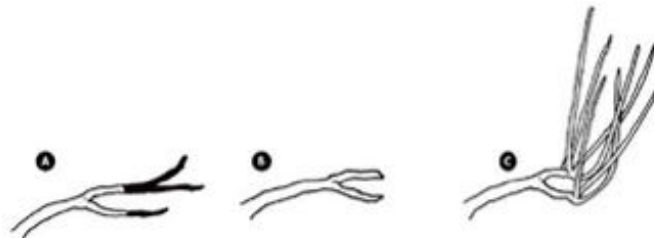


Figure 1.4 The *nonselective heading cut* creates bushiness. **A.** Removing tips **B.** stimulates dormant buds and **C.** results in rapid growth of water sprouts.



Figure 1.5 *Selective heading cut* **A.** Original branch **B.** Parent stem removed, leaving smaller side branch **C.** New growth continues through remaining existing branch.

Text from Cass Turnbull's Guide To Pruning, 2004



Figure 1.6 *Thinning cut* **A.** Original branch **B.** Smaller side branch removed **C.** Next season's growth is channeled into remaining limbs.



Common Hydrangeas

in Northeast landscapes



Nikko Blue®



'Haas' Halo



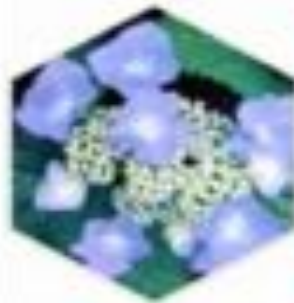
Tuff Stuff™

Hydrangea

- Large, rounded heads
- Blue, pink, white, or purple flowers
- Type of "leafy" hydrangea
- Hardiness zone 5



Endless Summer®



Lattice

- This form has a flatter appearance than other types
- Blue, pink, white, or purple flowers
- Type of "leafy" hydrangea
- Hardiness zone 5



'Blue Wave'

Wreath

- Beautiful appearance of large, flat heads, but with more flowers and leaves
- Most pink flowers
- Type of "leafy" hydrangea
- Hardiness zone 5



Snowflake

- Large, white heads usually found in a hedge
- White or pale flowers
- Hardiness zone 5



Incredibal®



Firelight



Munchkin



Panicle

- Crown-shaped flower heads
- White or pastel blooms
- Single panicle or full tree
- Hardiness zones 4-9



Dolling

- Single or double flowers
- Blooms in clusters
- Single or double flowers
- Hardiness zones 4-9



Limelight



Alice

Climbing

- Climbs up trees
- Blooms in large, terminal panicles
- "Saxatilis" or "Saxatilis"
- White flowers
- Hardiness zones 4-9



Pruning Hydrangeas

Less is more

Prune the lace-cap like the regular garden hydrangea, which is to say—not much (see Figure 11.13). Many of the best looking hydrangeas aren't pruned at all. So once again, if it's not broken, don't fix it. Generally speaking, garden hydrangeas and lace-caps can be made to look "better" by following the rules of selective pruning: First, take out the deadwood. (Be careful. With hydrangeas, the canes often look hollow and dead when they are not—check the cambium to see if it's tan, not live green, before eliminating.) Take out a few of the worst crossing/rubbing canes, especially those that are too crowded in the center. Cut off canes lying on the ground, growing out too far, or touching the house. This will make the shrub more attractive.

Figure 11.13 Pruning garden and lace-cap hydrangeas



Pruning Hydrangeas

Cont'd

When to Prune Different Types of Hydrangeas

Category	Blooms on old or new wood	When to prune
Bigleaf hydrangea	Old	Immediately after flowers fade
Smooth hydrangea	New	Late winter or early spring before new growth starts
Peegee hydrangea	New	Light pruning in late winter or early spring
Oakleaf hydrangea	Old	Summer after flowers fade
Mountain hydrangea	Old	Immediately after flowering
Climbing hydrangea	Old	Winter or early spring, only when necessary to control size



Sunset Beauty



Blaze

Common & Popular

Roses

in

Northeast landscapes



Peace



Charles de Gaulle

"Known for their long, upright stems, which make them an extremely popular cut flower."



Pink Parfait



Queen Elizabeth

"Grandiflora roses have large, showy flowers that are produced on long stems, either singly or in clusters of three to five blooms. Their shrubs are generally larger and more upright than Hybrid Teas."



La Reine



Reine des Violettes

"Perpetual roses became the most popular rose in the world among gardeners and florists in the nineteenth century. They are known for their lovely scent and ability to repeat bloom."



Iceberg



Anne Harkness

"Known for stocky, rigid shrubbery, and often used in landscaping in public parks and spaces."

Pruning Roses

Less is...possibly not enough

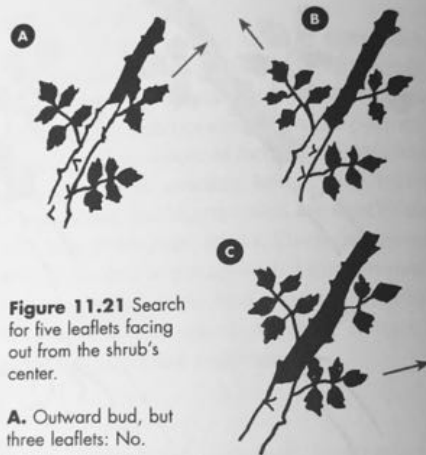


Figure 11.21 Search for five leaflets facing out from the shrub's center.

A. Outward bud, but three leaflets: No.

B. Five leaflets, but inwardbud: No.

C. Outward bud and five leaflets: Yes! Cut here.

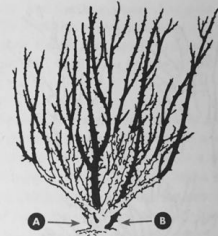


Figure 11.17 Hybrid tea pruning **A.** Graft union **B.** Sucker



Figure 11.16 The perfect rose bush would have five or six clear, green canes as thick as a thumb and radiating evenly from the center.



Figure 11.19 Cut canes back to either **A.** a bud or **B.** a leaflet, which will **C.** result in a new shoot and bloom.



Before you approach your rosebushes with shears, memorize the perfect cut—the one on the left. Make your cuts on 45-degree (approximately) slants, about 1/2 inch above a swelling bud eye. The cut in the middle is too stubby and too far removed from its new eye, and the one on the right cuts too sharply into new growth.



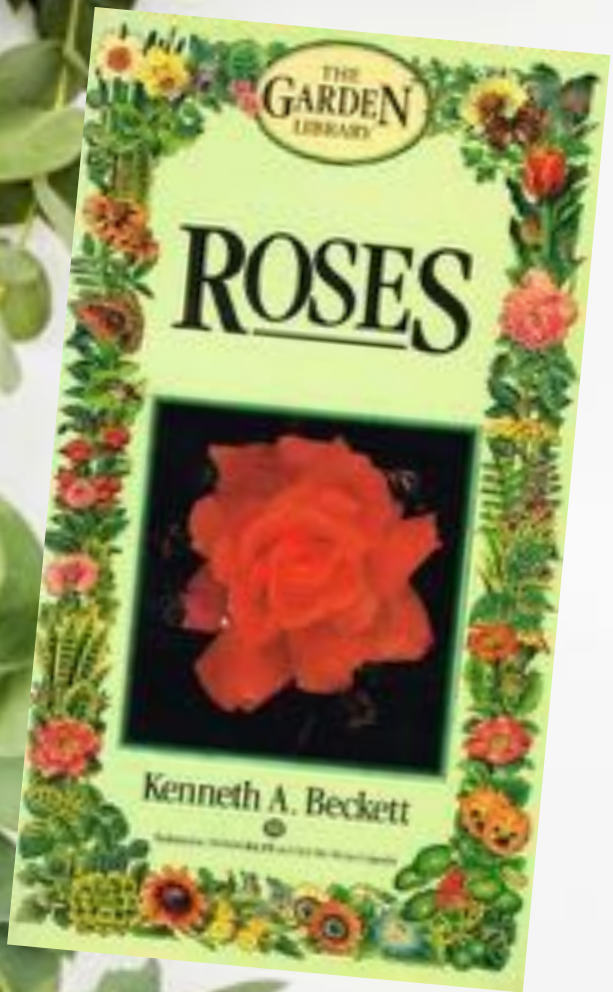
Light pruning demands only the removal of twiggly and dead wood. Although the blossoms that follow will be short-stemmed, they'll be profuse.



Moderate pruning requires that five to ten canes be left on bushes. Depending on the severity of winter where you garden, canes may be up to 4 feet long or shorter than 1 foot.



Severe pruning leaves fewer canes per bush, often cut down to 1-foot lengths. Gardeners who prune severely expect either trophies at rose shows or a cruel winter.





Comments/Questions?



Thanks!

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