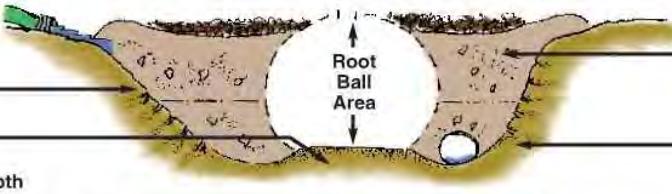


PLANTING TREES AND SHRUBS

TYPES OF NURSERY STOCK

Bareroot	Container-Grown	Balled-in-Burlap "B&B"
 <p>Heel in plants if not planted immediately. Neatly cut away any broken or damaged roots. Soak for a few hours prior to planting to rehydrate.</p>	 <p>Plastic or metal containers should be removed completely. Carefully cut through any circling roots. Remove top half of pressed peat/paper containers.</p>	 <p>Cut baling ropes. Pull burlap down at least 1/3 of the way; slit remaining burlap to encourage root growth. If in a wire basket, cut away top section.</p>

The Perfect Planting Hole



Partially backfill, water to settle soil, then finish backfilling hole

Widen and score hole wall

Leave solid soil pedestal

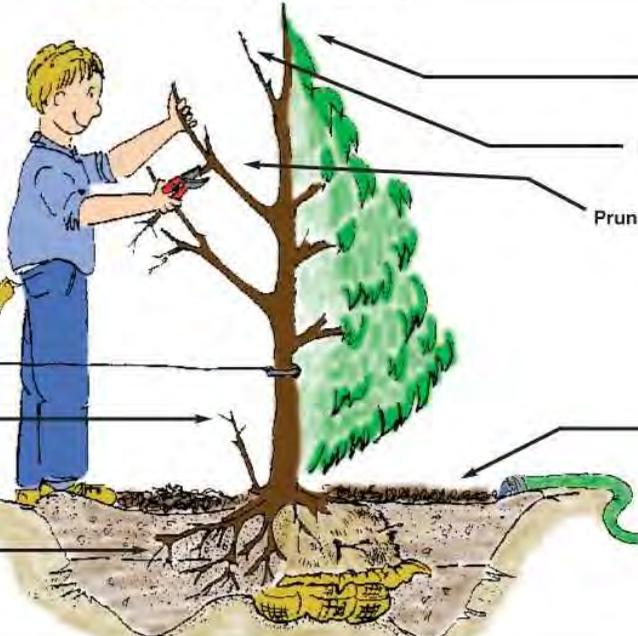
Do not dig deeper than root ball depth

Dig hole 2-3 times root ball width

Unamended backfill soil (No peat, bark, sand, etc.)

Area for water drainage (pipe or tile could be installed)

Your Finished Planting



Remove tags and labels

Do not stake trunk unless the tree has a large crown, or the planting is situated on a windy site or where people may push them over

Stake for a maximum of one year

Prune basal suckers

Spread roots out over soil pedestal evenly before filling

Do not prune terminal leader or branch tips

Prune any codominant leaders or narrow crotch angles

Prune rubbing or crossed branches

Prune any broken branches

Note: Evergreens rarely require staking!

Add 2"-3" of mulch kept away from trunk

Soak soil well, making sure no air pockets form between roots, then apply mulch

Poster Design by:
Dr. Bonnie Appleton
Virginia Tech University
Illustrations/Layout: S.K. Kane

Funds provided by the Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Grants Program of the U.S. Forest Service in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Forestry. © 1995

PRUNING LANDSCAPE PLANTS

Pruning is a horticultural practice that alters the form and growth of a plant. Based on aesthetics and science, pruning can also be considered preventive maintenance. Many problems may be prevented by pruning correctly during formative years for a tree or shrub.

REASONS FOR PRUNING

1. **Prune to promote plant health**
 - o Remove dead or dying branches injured by disease, severe insect infestation, animals, storms, or other adverse mechanical damage.
 - o Remove branches and branch stubs that rub together.
2. **Prune to maintain plants; intended purposes in a landscape, such as:**
 - o encouraging flower and fruit development,
 - o maintaining a dense hedge, or
 - o maintaining a desired tree form or special garden forms.
3. **Prune to improve plant appearance**

Appearance in the landscape is essential to a plant's usefulness. For most landscapes, a plant's natural form is best. Avoid shearing shrubs into tight geometrical forms that can adversely affect flowering. When plants are pruned well, it is difficult to see that they have been pruned!

Prune to:

 - o control plant size,
 - o keep evergreens well-proportioned
4. **Prune to protect people and property.**
 - o Prune branches that obscure vision at intersections.
 - o For security purposes, prune shrubs that obscure the entry to your home.



TIMING OF PRUNING

Shrubs that **bloom early in the growing season** on last year's growth should be pruned immediately after they finish blooming:

chokeberry	golden currant	elder
forsythia	lilac	double flowering plum
saskatoon	early blooming spirea	weigela

Shrubs grown **primarily for their foliage** rather than flowers should be pruned in spring, before growth begins:

alpine currant	barberry	burning bush
cistena cherry	dogwood	honeysuckle
ninebark	smokebush	sumac

Shrubs that **bloom on new growth** may be pruned in spring before growth begins. Plants with marginally hardy stems such as clematis and shrub roses should be pruned back to live wood.

PRUNING HEDGES:

After the initial pruning at planting, hedges need to be pruned often. Once the hedge reaches the desired height, prune new growth back whenever it grows another 6 to 8 inches. Prune to within 2 inches of the last pruning. Hedges may be pruned twice a year, in spring and again in mid-summer, to keep them dense and attractive.

PRUNING EVERGREENS:

With few exceptions, evergreens (conifers) require little pruning. Different types of evergreens should be pruned according to their varied growth habits.

- o **Pines** only put on a single flush of tip growth each spring and then stop growing. Prune before these "candles" of new needles become mature. Pines seldom need pruning, but if you want to promote more dense growth, remove up to two-thirds of the length of newly expanded candles. Don't prune further back than the current year's growth.
- o **Cedars and junipers** grow continuously throughout the growing season. They can be pruned any time through the middle of summer. Even though these plants will tolerate heavy shearing, their natural form is usually most desirable, so prune only to correct growth defects.