

INFORMAL SHRUB PRUNING continued

Pros (*continued*):

- ◆ Easier to reduce in size
- ◆ Easier to maintain at a given height
- ◆ Appropriate for cane type shrubs too (e.g., Nandina, Leea)
- ◆ Damage from people is less noticeable

Cons:

- ◆ Requires more skill to perform
- ◆ Generally more time consuming each pruning cycle
- ◆ May look out of place in a formal garden



Graphic by Edward F. Gilman

Dashed lines indicate branches to be removed through reduction pruning

Reference: *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning 2nd Edition*
by Edward F. Gilman

About

Aloha Arborist Association

Aloha Arborist Association's (AAA's) mission is to educate the tree care industry and the public about proper tree care in the State of Hawaii. For more information about proper tree care, please visit alohaarborist.com and click on "Links".

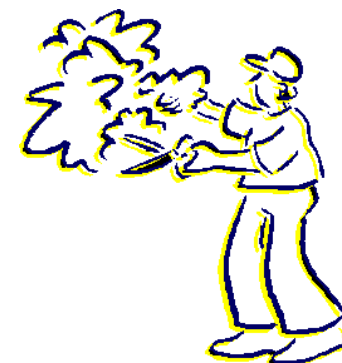
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PRUNING SHRUBS



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SHRUB PRUNING GOALS

What is your purpose for pruning?

- ◆ Clearance from structures, property lines, other plants
- ◆ Sight line clearance for vehicles at corners and driveways
- ◆ To maintain size
- ◆ Appearance

SHRUB PRUNING STYLES

1. Formal
2. Informal

FORMAL SHRUB PRUNING

- ◆ Pruning into shapes – round, box, square, topiary
- ◆ Appropriate for small-leaved shrubs with leaves spaced close together. The shrubs must be tough enough to survive repeated shearing
- ◆ Appropriate for structured, formal landscapes – e.g., English gardens, Japanese gardens, a border hedge dividing properties
- ◆ Always prune so the top of the shrub is narrower than the bottom so the bottom foliage gets sunlight
- ◆ Tools: Hedge shears (manual or powered)



Good Shape – Lower branches get sun



Poor Shape – Lower branches shaded from sun

Pros:

- ◆ Doesn't require a lot of training or skills
- ◆ Looks neat (for a short time)
- ◆ Economical
- ◆ Can be a dramatic addition to the landscape (e.g. – Disneyland)

Cons:

- ◆ Frequent pruning cycle (grows out quickly)
- ◆ Much less flowering
- ◆ Tough to reduce size gradually
- ◆ All of the foliage grows on the outside of the plant
- ◆ Causes tangled, rubbing branches inside the shrub
- ◆ If a hedge is damaged, it has a void for a long time
- ◆ May look out of place in a natural garden

INFORMAL SHRUB PRUNING

- ◆ Appropriate for any species of shrub
- ◆ Similar pruning principals to tree pruning with reduction cuts to lateral branches with foliage
- ◆ Make pruning cuts at 6" to 24" inside the outer edge of the plant
- ◆ Tools: Hand shears (bypass style – similar to scissors), loppers, hand saw

Pros:

- ◆ Natural appearance, even just after pruning
- ◆ Flowering shrubs have more flowers
- ◆ Infrequent pruning cycle
- ◆ Looks neat for a longer period

Continued