## Researchers Develop Pruning Guides for Yews and Junipers

The old question o how much and when to prune certain evergreen shrubs has been answered by 6 years of experimental work at The Pennsylvania State University. The results apply to two evergreens grown widely in Pennsylvania, the Japanese Spreading Yew and the Hetz Spreading Juniper, says Dr. James E. Brewer, associate professor of ornamental horticulture.

The pruning studies show that

Japanese Yew can be sheared throughout the plant. In shearing yews, the tips of all stems should be cut to shape the shrub as desired. On the other hand, only the longest branches of the Hetz Juniper should be pruned.

Home gardeners wanting to reduce the size of Japanese Yews can shear these shrubs heavily with assurance of good results, Dr. Brewer reports. He and his associates also found that these yews grow more compact and produce better quality when pruned yearly rather than every other year.

"If you don't want a compact yew, then we suggest shearing the Japanese Yew every other season," he stated.

Shearing in July and October produced the greatest follow-up growth from yews. March prunings, on the other hand, gave the least gowth.

As for Hetz Juniper, heavy pruning or "heading-back" was found effective. This evergreen grows rapidly but is not damaged by heavy pruning. The pruning trials yielded no real differences between pruning Hetz Juniper every year or every other year. However, the most compact plants developed from pruning the shrubs twice a year in March and July. Heavy pruning restrained Hetz Juniper to a lowgrowing form not typical of the plant.

## Deadline for Emergency FHA Loans Announced

Penrose Hallowell, State Director of Farmers Home Administration, announced today that Emergency loans will be available to farmers only who suffered physical and or production losses from storms on or about June 27. 1973.

The Penn State evergreen experiments should be helpful to plant nurserymen, it was suggested, since 38 per cent of all nursery stock consists of ornamental evergreens. The experimental work by Dr. Brewer and associates is considered the only study of its type involving the pruning of ornamental evergreens. Loans will be made only to farmers who are unable to obtain sufficient credit elsewhere to finance their needs. The total loan must be repaid (no forgiveness or principal cancellation). Interest rate will be 5 percent per annum.

Applications for physical losses must be received by September 17, 1973. Applications for production losses must be received by April 17, 1974. Applications for Lancaster and Chester County farmers are available at the local Farmers Home Administration office at 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17601, Phone 394-0681, extension 57.

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