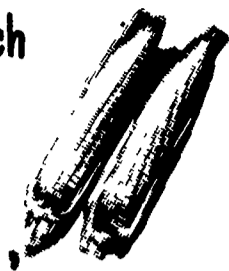




**Seeding,
Weeding
and mulch
more**



For the avid gardener

On nice days now, many home gardeners will be heading outdoors to tidy up their yards and prepare for the new growing season. Pruning is one of the first chores they're likely to tackle.

Plants need pruning for three main reasons: to control growth, improve health and increase production. But for best results, be sure to prune yours at the proper time, advises University of Delaware extension horticulturist Sue Barton.

Before trimming any flowering trees and shrubs this spring, she suggests home gardeners consider when these plants bloom and the

growth on which they flower. Spring flowering ornamentals, such as lilac and forsythia, which bloom on last year's wood should not be pruned now, as this will remove the stems that produce flowers.

Summer flowering ornamentals like beauty bush and crepe myrtle, on the other hand, may be safely pruned in late winter or early spring, since they bloom on shoots from the current season. Pruning them now will encourage new growth, providing more shoots and flower buds.

Barton offers the following guidelines to help you decide when to prune.

Late Winter into Early Spring:

- Remove old canes from mature shrubs, except those that flower early;
- Trim deciduous hedges;
- Prune dormant fruit trees:

- Prune inconvenient low branches and crossing branches from flowering ornamental trees;
- Do not prune shade trees and evergreens now.

Late Spring into Early Summer:

- Remove old canes on mature shrubs after they bloom,
- Trim evergreens with new growth;
- Pinch back new growth on flowering shrubs to encourage branching;
- Remove dead flowers of azaleas and rhododendrons.

Throughout Summer:

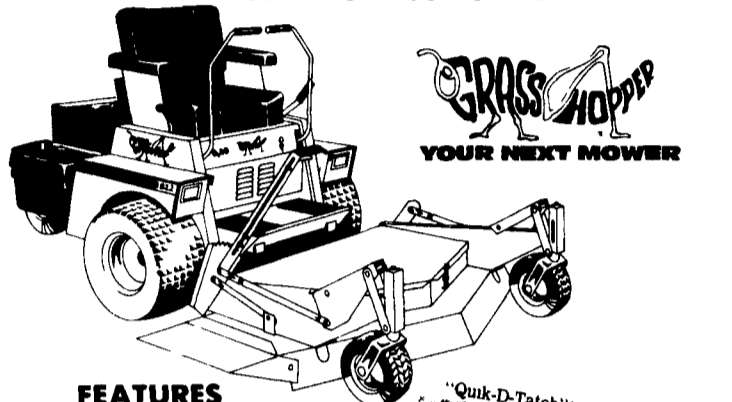
- Shear hedges;
- Remove lower branches from young shade trees;
- Prune evergreen shrubs;
- Pinch back growing tips to maintain plant size.

Late Fall into Winter:

- Ease off evergreen pruning;
- Prune shade trees.

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Carroll County 4-H'ers win public speaking awards

WESTMINSTER, Md
Seventy-one 4-H members gave 85 speeches at the Carroll County 4-H Public Speaking Contest, expanded this year to include divisions for extemporaneous speeches and radio/public address announcements as well as the customary prepared speeches

In the radio/public address division judges Dwight Dingle and Gary Riggan from WTRR awarded championships to: Jamie Reese, Jenell Rinehart and Monica McGinley. Brandy Reese and Rachel Hare were reserve champions, with Billy Webster receiving a blue award; Laura McGinley, Janet Carter and Susan Bowersox, red awards; and Joe Carter a white award

Extemporaneous champions were Laura McGinley, Jenell Rinehart and Janet Carter, with Kris Eckard receiving the reserve champion. Blue ribbons were awarded to Monica McGinley and Kelly Binko, a red to Sandy Donaldson and a white to Matt Blauvelt.

Senior division (14 to 18 years old) champion prepared speeches were presented to Monica McGinley and Kris Eckard, with Cherie Dabney and Denise Frebertshauer chosen reserve champions. Blue awards went to Nicole Roop, Michelle Baker, Michelle Behrendt, Louie Fisher, Christine Curry, Beth White, Debbie Starner and Susie Stonesifer and White Awards to Henry FKline and Wade Rippeon Sarah Ensor and Shelley

Yingling were named the Intermediate Division (11-13 years old) champions with Jenell Rinehart and Scott Hoffman reserve champions. 4-Her's receiving blue awards were Brandy Reese, Michelle Zepp, Laura McGinley, Jennifer Conaway, Rachel Wagner, Toyah Houck, Laura Eberling, Kelly Clagett and Charles Streaker. Red winners were Yung Soon Marr, Matt Blauvelt, Sandy Donaldson, Greg Soper, Beth Leidy, Anne Dorwart, Trevor Wells and Laura Dorsey. White winners were Lucretia Carter, Judy Adkins and Jenny Eberling.

Junior Division (8-10 years old) champion prepared speeches were presented to Amanda Kent and Tim Dutterer. Reserve champions were Troy Curry and Jenny Kibler. Blue award speeches were given by Jamie Reese, Katie Hoffman, Susan Haebler, Kate Ensor and Tracy Clagett. Red awards went to Rachel Hare, Jennifer Baker, Melame Soper, Dollie, Tasto, Matt Soper, Debbie Tasto, Alice Carr, Kristy Anderson and Charlene Barnes. White ribbons were presented to Laura Behrendt, Erin Deigert, Jennifer Williams, Kristen Harris, Sarah McGinley and Shawnee Blauvelt. Clover awards were presented to April Deigert and Josh Kibler.

Extension agent Bob Shirley announced that the six champions in the prepared speech divisions will compete with the champions from Frederick and Howard counties on April 18.

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