

Paul Gibbs, vo-tech student, gives tips on pruning plants

by Paul Gibbs

This is the best time of the year when people should be out pruning their plants, because pruning is the most important job around the yard. It improves the appearance and shape of the plant; increases flowering or the size of the blooms or fruit; and prevents disease of the plant. Your objective is to eliminate dead and diseased wood; cut out weak twiggy growth and suckers; remove any irregular growth also, duplicating, crossover and broken or rubbing branches.

The major types of pruning tools are:

Hand Shears - which are used for small twigs and branches under one inch.

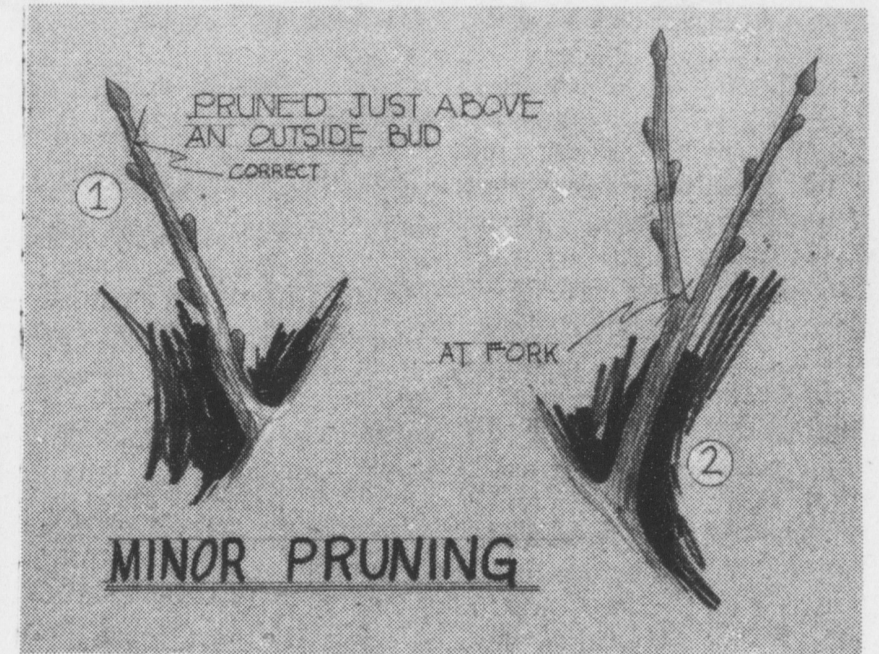
Lopping Shears - for larger branches or for getting at the base of the plant.

Pruning Saw - this is different from your saws at home because of its back cut.

Hedge Shears - are used for formal hedges and they are not used as pruning shears.

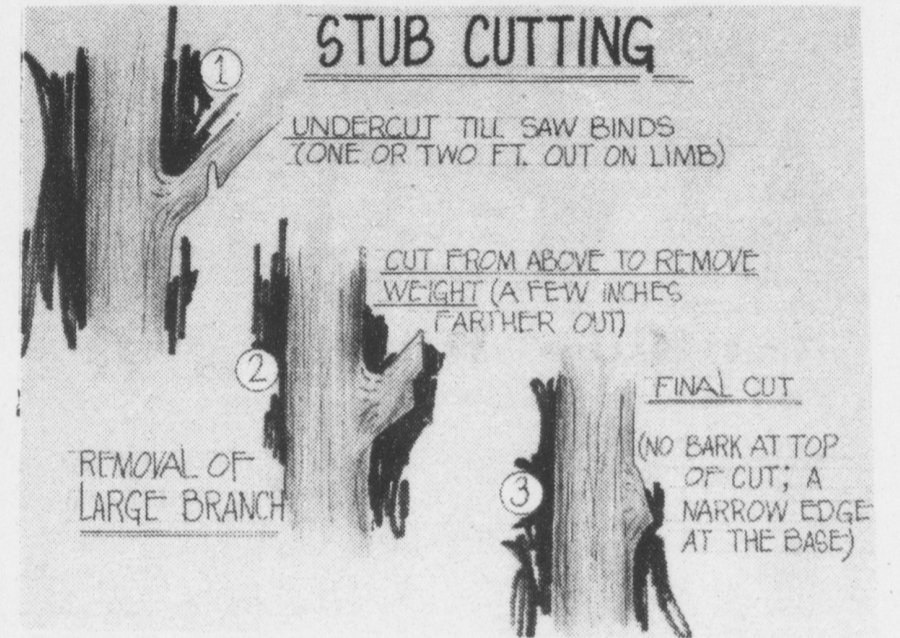
There are many different varieties of trees, evergreens, shrubs around the yard and almost everyone uses a different pruning method. First, deciduous

trees (which consist of shade trees, flowering trees, fruit trees.) When pruning, you make a cut slightly higher than the lateral bud at an angle.



Minor Pruning Poster - as in this picture. Also you can cut at the fork leaving no

stub. Another method of stub cutting is only used for large branches.

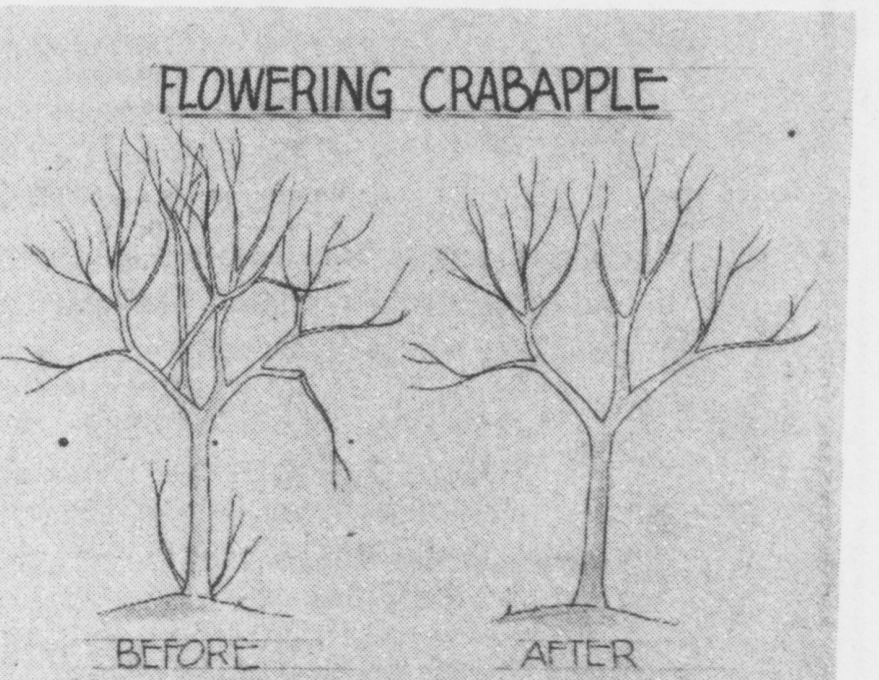


Stub Cutting Poster - this chart shows the different steps-first you undercut till saw binds; second, cut above few inches farther out from your undercut until branch snips off. Third, start at the top and saw away from the trunk. Make final cut as smooth with the trunk and treat it with wound dressing.

ing the candle stage by pinching part of the candle. This will also give you a more compact plant. The candle stage occurs around mid-July.

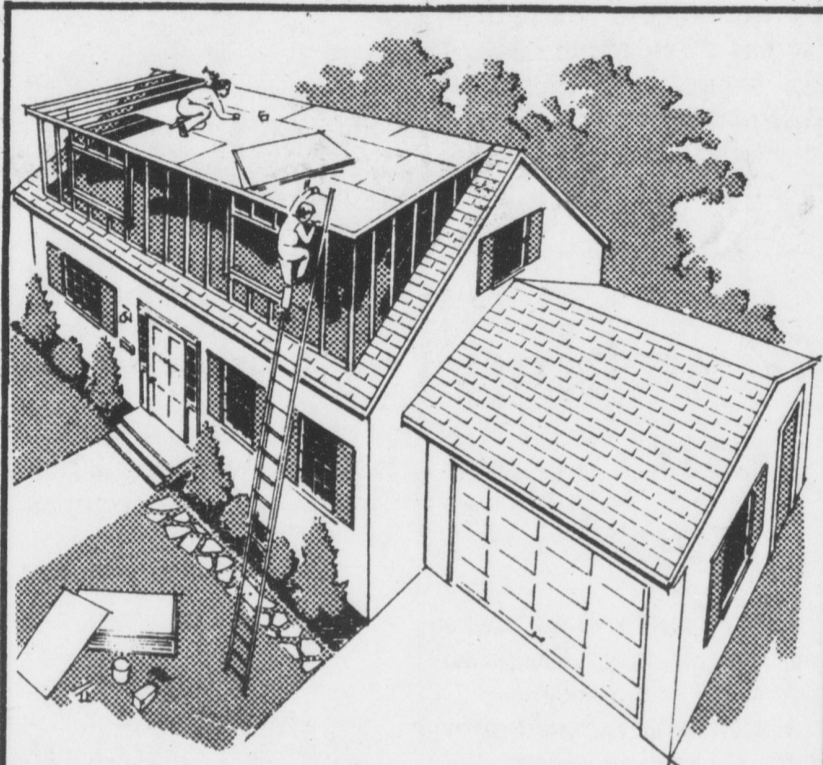
Pruning Deciduous shrubs - Shrubs should be pruned when not in flower. There are two types of blooming shrubs. Summer and Spring blooming shrubs. Summer blooming shrubs (which consist of abella, hydrangea, privet symphor) flower in mid-June so they should be pruned in winter.

Spring blooming shrubs which consist of Japanese Barberry, Cotoneaster, Forsythia and Euonymus flower up until early June so they are pruned immediately after shrubs flower.



Flowering Crabapple Poster - This chart shows what this Deciduous tree looked before and after it was pruned. You can see in the before

chart the sucker growth, broken twigs, branches rubbing, irregular growth, after you make the proper cut you can see you have a better appeared plant.



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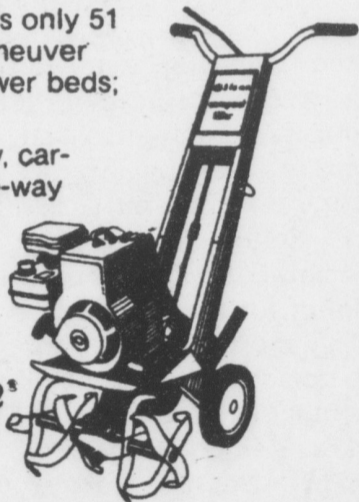


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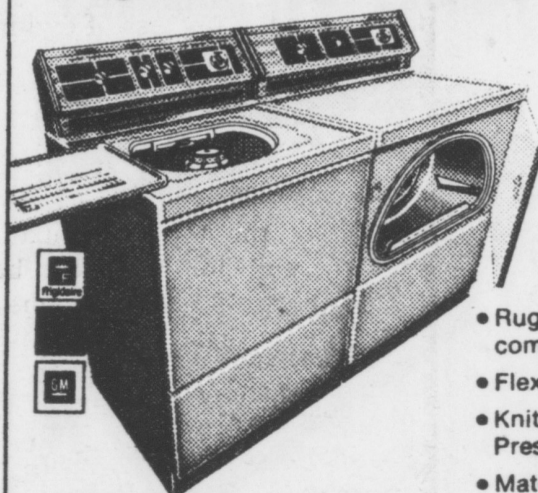
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