



**LANDSCAPE
CONSULTANTS &
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Pruning

Pruning is without a doubt the most difficult and sensitive service we perform. There are many proper ways to prune trees and shrubs. The key is to find a process that is beneficial for the health of the plant, results in a visually appealing landscape, and can be done in a cost-effective manner.

The **greatest difficulties** we incur are when a large plant is squeezed into a small space. This means intrusion onto sidewalks and into buildings. It also requires expensive and extensive cutting of the plant.

A **short explanation** of our pruning program follows:

- We recommend pruning twice a year, summer and fall.
- Additional pruning is available but it is an expensive process. A round figure is each pruning costs 10% of the total contract price.
- We can prune for safety/clearance reasons continuously. Please let us know if you notice any problems in this area.
- We begin summer pruning in late June and continue through September. We do this because most shrubs have finished flowering by then and they have completed their big spring growth push. Pruning any earlier will result in lost flowering time and an unkempt appearance. Summer pruning includes more shearing than thinning.
- Fall pruning is done after leaves fall. This allows us to see the interior of the plants, remove any damaged material, and thin any old wood. This also allows us to simultaneously clean in and under the shrubs.
- From time to time, roughly every 5-10 years, most deciduous shrubs can benefit by being pruned heavily. We attempt to heavily prune a small percentage of all shrubs each year. This prevents the entire site from looking severely pruned at any one time. However, it may result in complaints from residents that see the affected shrubs. Communication about the pruning program helps to mitigate complaints.
- There are several varieties of shrubs that benefit from being pruned to the ground periodically. Depending on their location and health, potentillas, willows, and blue mist spireas are some common shrubs that benefit from this practice.
- We normally do not prune roses, for many reasons. We can do so upon request.

As always, we are available to walk your property with you to discuss short-term and long-term pruning programs

Wm Michael Farrell, MBA, MSIB, ISA, APLD

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