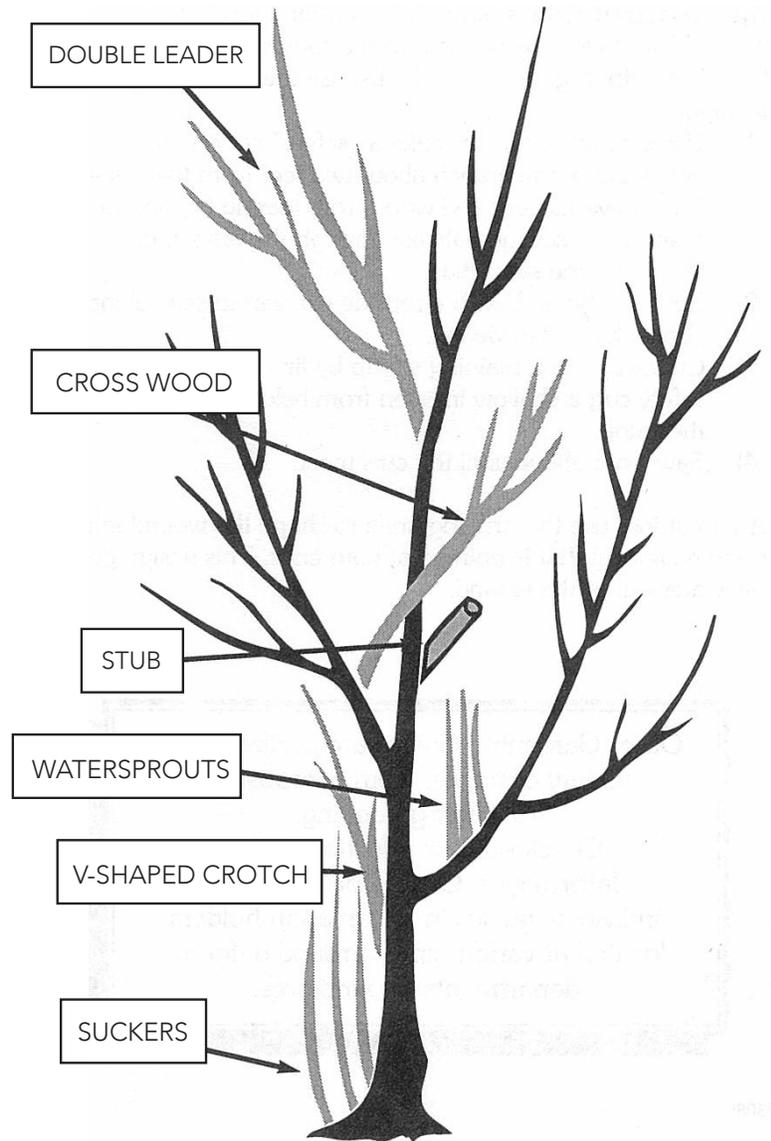




PRUNING BASICS

Proper pruning enhances the beauty of almost any landscape tree and shrub and will help produce a strong, healthy, beautiful plant. There are many reasons to prune, such as: to remove dead and diseased limbs, to shape a plant, to control growth, or to stimulate new growth. Our pros put together a few tips to help you succeed.

- Late winter is generally the best time to prune to avoid cold damage to any new growth. Feed the plant when you prune, to help stimulate root growth and healthy top growth.
- Upright suckers that appear at the trunk base or along lower branches can twist the tree out of shape, so trim these away.
- If a branch is inconveniently low, trim it off now, instead of waiting.
- Remove branches that grow in too tight of a "V" shape with the trunk, keeping branches that grow at more nearly horizontal angles.
- Trim back stems that compete with the main stem.
- Shorten limbs that stick out too far and spoil the proportion or symmetry.
- On an older tree, clear away overgrowth and deadwood and remove branches that bow inward.
- An important rule is not to leave unsightly stubs when pruning. Cut close to the source of the branch or trunk without cutting flush to the trunk. The best pruning cut is at a 45 to 60 degree angle.



PRUNING DIAGRAM

Indicated items are to be eliminated

INDEPENDENCE
1144 Independence Blvd. 757.464.5564

GREAT NECK
1276 N Great Neck Rd. 757.962.7596





PRUNING BASICS

The right tools are essential. We suggest the following basics for pruning success.

HAND PRUNING SHEARS:

use on branches up to 3/4 inch diameter

LOPPING SHEARS:

use on thicknesses 3/4 to 1 1/4 inches or branches out of reach with hand shears

CRESCENT PRUNING SAW:

use for heavier work

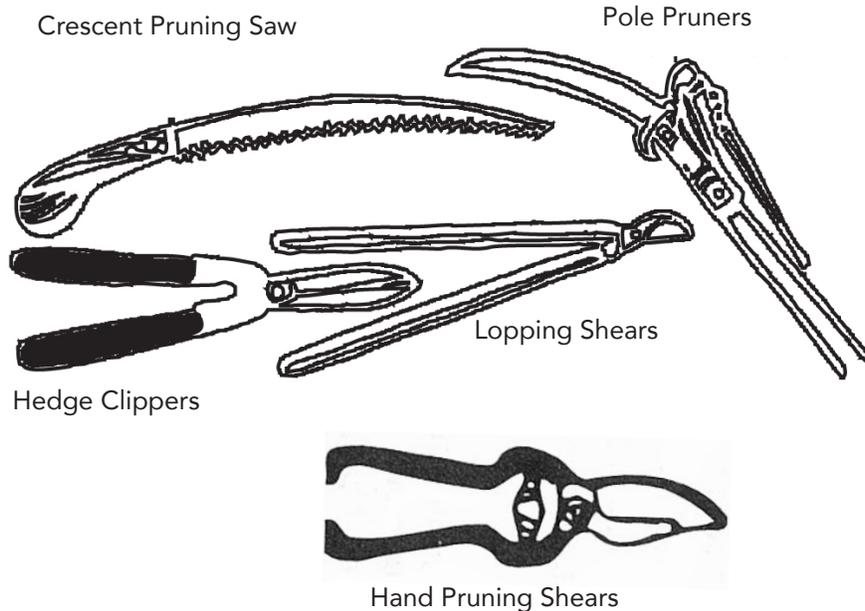
HEDGE CLIPPERS:

use for shaping and shearing shrubs and hedges

POLE PRUNERS:

use to cut out-of-reach branches up to 2-inches in diameter

Always clean your tools after use. We suggest using rubbing alcohol to be effective against many diseases.



INDEPENDENCE
1144 Independence Blvd.
757.464.5564

GREAT NECK
1276 N Great Neck Rd.
757.962.7596

