



FACEBOOK LIVE WEBINAR

Pruning Houseplants

Houseplants, like all plants, need to be cared for throughout the year to avoid disease and pests. Keeping your indoor beauties looking fresh and fabulous starts with pruning. Knowing where and when to prune is occasionally a tricky process, which is why Mike, the Garden Guru is here to help! This webinar will guide you through the ins and outs of houseplant pruning, along with some care tips to get your indoor plants looking their best.

PRUNING FOR THE BETTER

Pruning houseplants can keep your favorite indoor friends looking good, healthy, growing fuller, growing faster, or even in the direction you want them to go in. Proper pruning techniques are vital to the success of having healthy, long-lived indoor plants. We are here to help you find the right times, tools, and types of pruning to get your houseplants to their best version of themselves.

Timing

Typical timing for pruning is late winter to early spring. This is a good rule of thumb in general, but is also very important for indoor plants. This time is typically when all plants are getting ready to send out new growth, therefore they can recover quicker from pruning (especially if it is going to be a big haircut). However, some plants will need year-round pruning. This type of pruning is typically lighter and only really when you need to take off a leaf here and there. For flowering plants, they prefer a light prune after completing a bloom cycle.

PRO TIP: Use the 1/3 rule when pruning your plants. Never take off more than 1/3 of the plants size at one time.

Tools for Pruning

There are a variety of tools that you can use for pruning your houseplants, from a specific type of shear to your own hands. Tools are not only limited to cutting. Having the right plant foods and prevention methods to add in after pruning can get your plants growing faster and fuller after the "big chop".

Tools to consider:

- Bypass Pruners
- Houseplant Sheers
- Pointed Snips
- Bonsai Sheers
- Houseplant food
- Super Thrive
- Insecticide
- Rooting hormone
- Rubbing Alcohol or Bleach (to clean your sheers between cuttings)

If you have any questions regarding tools for pruning, please see our Green Team experts in-store to get you to the products you need.

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PRUNING METHODS

Pruning for Health

One of the most important reasons to prune is to clean your plants. Yellowing leaves and dying branches take energy away from the plant by preventing it from sending energy to good leaves and the production of more leaves. Some plants will consistently need to be pinched and clipped here and there and some may need it as little as once a year. The key is to constantly have an eye on your plants to see what they need.

Pruning to Grow

Your indoor plants will typically grow fuller, and with more vigor, when pruned. Cutting back some length or rounding out some edges can help make your plants strong and resilient. Plants, like citrus, need pruning to support fruit and vine-like plants such as the Swiss cheese plant, can grow long and stretched out, which is occasionally undesired. Pruning will help these plants, but be careful not to push your plants by cutting too much off at one time.

Pruning to Shape

Not all plants will grow how you want, but you have the ability to shape them into what they could be with pruning. Lots of variables affect growth habits: light, stretching, poor soil, too much fertilizer, too little fertilizer, and the list goes on. By pruning with a shape in mind, you can affect the plants growth habits over time to achieve your indoor gardening goals.

Pruning to Revive

Some plants may need drastic measures to revive them from old age, poor conditions, and neglect. These prunes are usually pretty severe as they are meant to give your plant a new start. If you are worried you are going to hurt your plant during a revival prune, give us a call or bring your plant in to our houseplant help desk to guide you through the process.

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