

PRUNING IN KINGS POINT

Purpose for Pruning:

Pruning has a major influence on a shrub's flowering habit, size, shape, and pest problems. Kings Point's landscape is a composite of shrubbery that, properly pruned, will result in a greater return on investment. The objective is to maintain formality without reducing the longevity of the plant.

Pruning Types:

Correct pruning is an essential maintenance practice for trees and shrubs in the home landscape. To understand pruning, you need to understand the basics, learn why, when, and how to prune. Trees and shrubs should be examined annually for pruning requirements. Some trees and most shrubs become overgrown and often weak, making drastic pruning a necessity to bring the plant back to usefulness. Regular pruning will help keep the plant in bounds and keep its growth vigorous.

Improper Pruning Techniques

Improper pruning can damage the plant as well as the landscape. It can cause lifelong damage and shorten the life of your tree, and may lead to disease.

These photos were taken on March 23, 2009 during our three day property inspection within Kings Point. They are examples of poor pruning techniques, improper landscape procedures and address the need for continued landscape maintenance education.



Rejuvenation Pruning: Older shrubs often grow out of proportion with their surroundings, and may have large amounts of unproductive wood. Old shrubs can be restored, provided they still have sufficient vigor and are growing in a favorable location. The preferred time for restorative pruning is just before bud break in early spring. Yes, the shrub's new appearance will have an immediate impact on the landscape, but the impact the pruning will have on the plant to improve the landscape later will be well worth it.

The practice of cutting all shrub stems back to about two inches above the ground is called rejuvenation pruning. Cutting back a shrub to the base can be scary but new growth will appear and rapidly form near the cut. The benefit of cutting back to the base is that the shrub will maintain its natural shape. If you prune higher the new growth will appear where the cut was made and the plant will not appear in its natural shape. Cutting the shrub at a higher level will create a bush that is thin at the bottom and thick at the top.



Maintenance Pruning: Deciduous shrubs require maintenance pruning to keep them healthy and in scale with their surroundings. Maintenance pruning practices should begin at the time of planting, or after rejuvenation of older shrubs. Ornamental plants are usually trimmed to improve their appearance in the eyes of the beholder. Maintenance pruning is needed when trees are too close to houses, drooping over parking spaces, or have limbs too low under which to walk. This type of pruning is done on a two to three year cycle.

Palm Pruning: You may have seen some severely pruned palms that resemble the tops of carrots, sometimes called “hurricane cuts” which remove all but a few of the youngest leaves.



This practice removes the strength and protection of the palm and actually weakens the canopy. When fronds are removed for this “hurricane cut” the palm’s ability to manufacture food is also cut. The way palms work is that they move nutrients from older fronds to new growth. So, when the older fronds are removed the nutrients and their source is removed as well.

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