

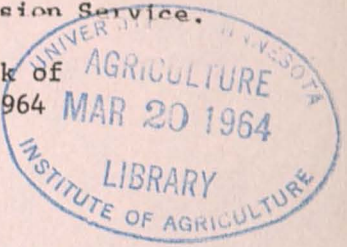
Department of Information
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Yard 'n' Garden

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C. GUSTAV HARD ORRIN C. TURNQUIST
AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101

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PRUNING ORNAMENTALS

A good landscape planting is no better than its maintenance. So it is that when spring rolls around, we should prune our trees and shrubs to improve their shape, remove dead wood and rejuvenate them to make them as beautiful as possible.

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Shrubs and trees to prune now are all those which do not blossom in early spring. Shrubs such as the rugosa roses, spireas and dogwoods may all be pruned now.

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Almost all shade trees except maple and birch may be pruned. Heavy bleeding of these species often causes concern for the home owner, although rarely does the bleeding cause any problem. To avoid the bleeding problem, prune maple and birch after they have leafed out in spring.

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Most cuts that are made do not have to be treated with a wound compound; however, if the wound is over 1/2 inch you may want to cover it with orange shellac or other commercial wound compounds. These are now available in convenient aerosol containers.

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All cuts should be made at a side branch or to a main trunk. Shearing as a method of controlling growth is not a recommended practice, since it detracts from the natural form of the shrub. Shearing is reserved for formal hedges.

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When pruning, cut back some of the old wood to the ground each year to encourage new wood to develop.

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