

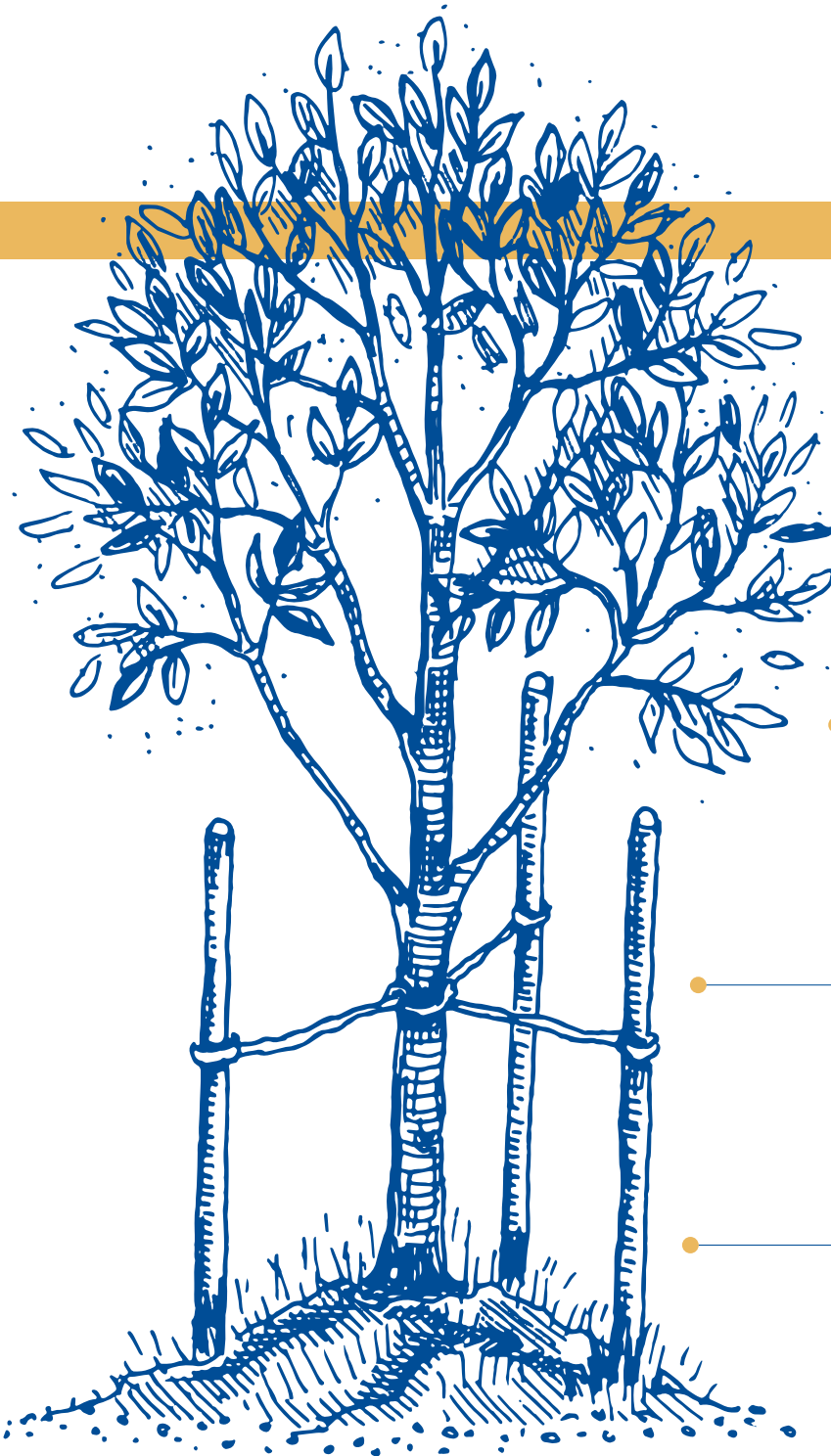
A photograph of a stone path in a garden, overlaid with a white geometric design consisting of a vertical line, a horizontal line, and a circle. The path is made of rectangular stone slabs and is surrounded by various plants, including tall grasses with yellow flowers on the left and dense green foliage on the right. The background is slightly blurred, showing more trees and a building.

MAINTAINING HEALTHY PLANTS AND SHRUBS

TREE STAKES

Staking your tree is beneficial when the trunk needs protection and/or support from environmental factors such as wind or hungry grazing animals. However, it's important that the tree is staked properly, as improper staking can result in further problems and cause harm to the tree's growth.

HOW TO PROPERLY STAKE A TREE



Decide how many stakes you need

Typically, three stakes, in the shape of a triangle, will be sufficient support.

18 Inches deep

Drive the stakes 18 inches into the ground about one and a half feet away from the trunk.

Tying the tree

Tie the tree using flexible material, like a cloth strap, rubber tubing or even pantyhose.

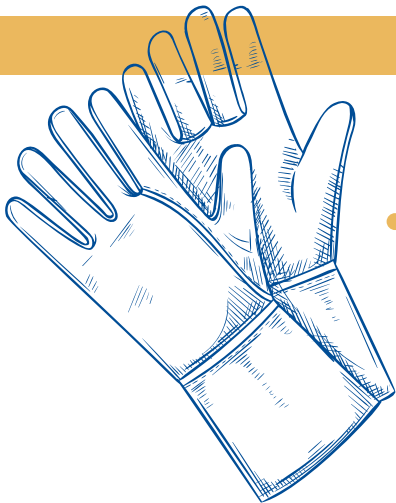
Removal

Remove the stakes after one full year.

DEADHEADING

Deadheading your shrubs is an important part of the pruning process. Excess blooms and leaves can prevent sunlight from reaching the lower branches and stems. It also extends the blooming season of your shrub, improving its overall appearance.

HOW TO DEADHEAD



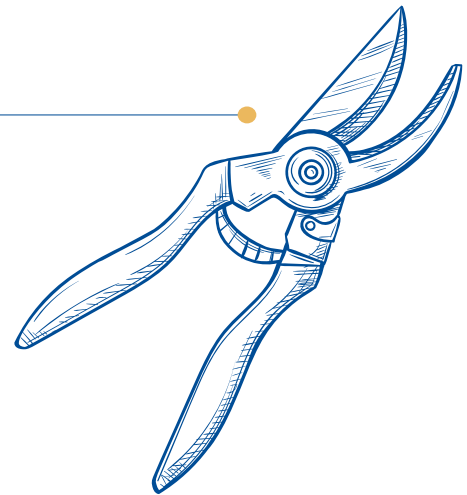
Pinch

If the stem is thin and crisp enough, simply pinch off the spent flower with your fingertips.

Trim

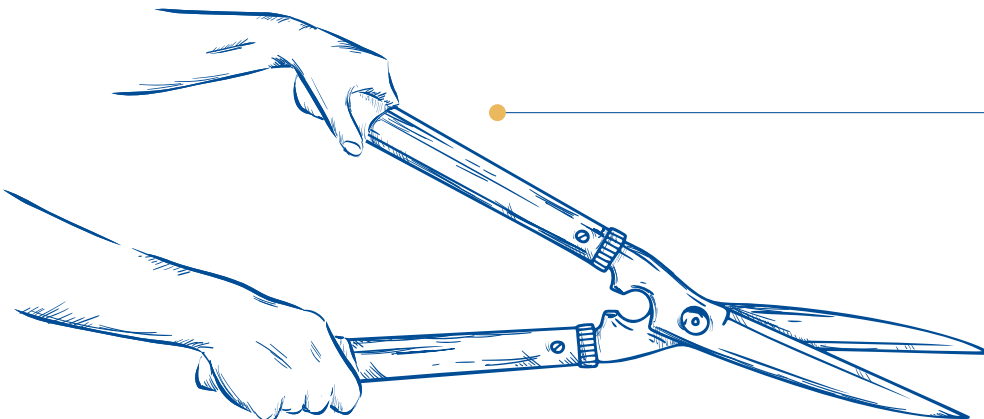
When a bud begins to wilt, cut directly above the next set of foliage with garden scissors or pruners.

When all buds are spent, cut back the entire stem directly above any foliage at the base.



Shear

When many buds are bunched closely together, wait until most have bloomed then shear back approximately one half of the plant.



ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

To ensure proper growth from your ornamental grasses, you'll need to cut them back each year. Old grass can delay new grass growth. Cutting the old grass is a simple process in which you tie twine or tape around the grass (almost creating a ponytail) to create a bundle. Then, cut all the dead blades as low as 4-6 inches from the ground.

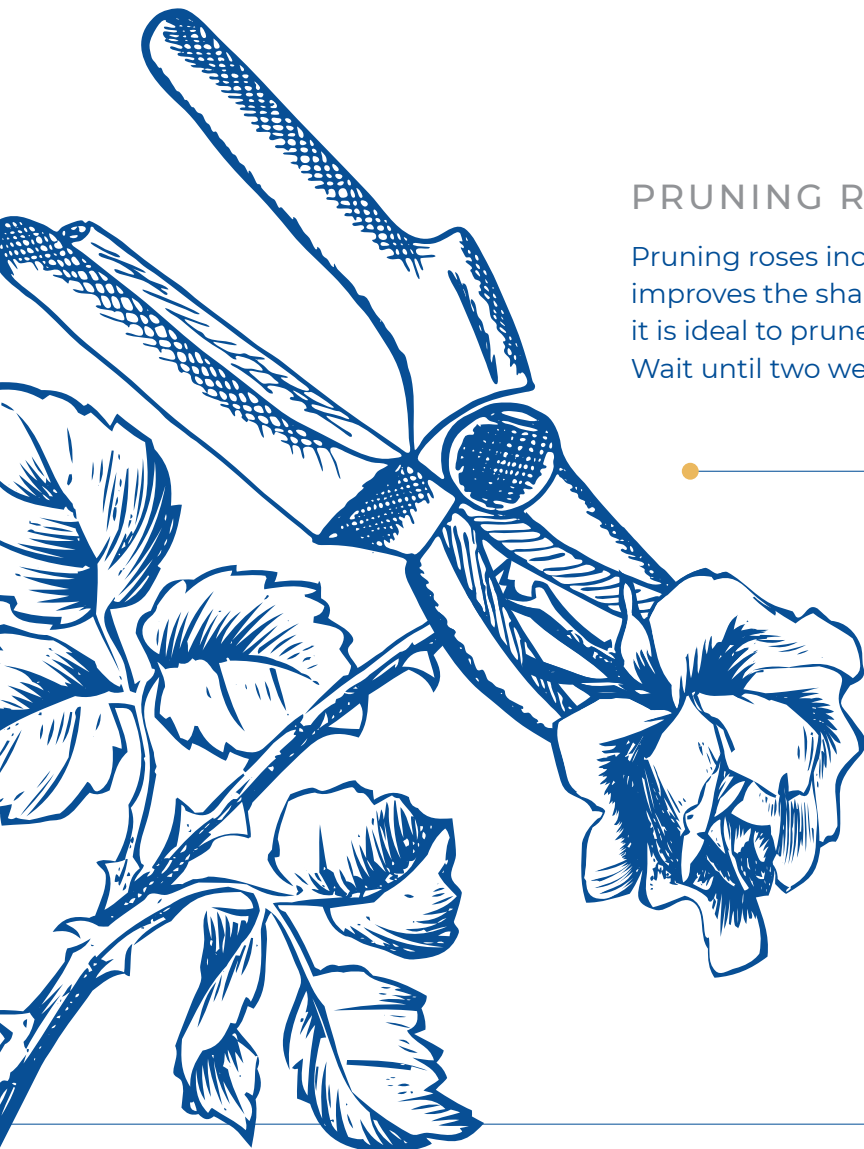
- — Avoid cutting back grasses in the late winter. Instead, plan to trim the grasses back during the spring.



PRUNING ROSES

Pruning roses increases the number of blooms and improves the shape and health of the bush. In Colorado it is ideal to prune your roses any time in the late spring. Wait until two weeks after the final frost to be safe.

- — To properly prune a rose bush, remove dead or diseased canes first, and then create the shape you want. Make a 45-degree cut one quarter inch above the live bud, with the bud eye pointing outward from the plant. This should stimulate new growth.



COLORADO TREE DISEASES

EMERALD ASH BORER

This little beetle causes major problems. EAB attacks both healthy and stressed ash trees, including green, white, black and blue ash and their cultivators, killing them within two to four years after infestation.

Treatment: _____

It is best to begin using insecticides while ash trees are still relatively healthy.

- **Soil Application** – Insecticide is applied around the base of the tree; this is done once every year.
- **Trunk Injection** – Insecticide is applied once every two years and dependent upon other factors affecting the tree.

CYTOSPORA CANKER

Cytospora canker is caused by several species of Cytospora fungi. This disease occurs on woody shrubs and trees or parts of plants that are slightly stressed.

Treatment: _____

To manage the disease, reduce stress on trees, use resistant plants, remove infected limbs, clean wounds and prune properly.

IPS BEETLES

Ips beetles, sometimes known as “engraver beetles,” are bark beetles that develop under the bark and tunnel through the tree, damaging and killing damaged pine and spruce trees. If your trees are infected with these beetles, you’ll notice an increase in woodpeckers, change in needle color, or the presence of pitch tubes.

Treatment: _____

Currently the only known treatment is to spray insecticide before the beetles emerge.

FIRE BLIGHT

Fire blight is a bacterial disease that can kill branches and whole plants of many members of the rose family, including apple, pear, quince and crabapple. Symptoms include dead branches, water-soaked blossoms, light brown to blackened leaves, discolored bark, black “shepherd’s crook” twigs and dried fruits.

Treatment: _____

Planting resistant varieties, implementing cultural practices that favor growth of the plant rather than the pathogen, pruning to remove infected plant parts and chemical sprays.

