

## WINTER PRUNING DO'S AND DONT'S

Pruning of roses, dormant fruit trees, shade trees, vines and grapes should be done in January or February. If buds appear or sap is running, you are too late. Do not prune flowers shrubs or vines until flower show is over. Diseased or dead branches should be pruned whenever they occur along with suckers.

To cut a big branch (over 2" in diameter) without tearing the bark beneath, use a pruning saw to cut halfway through the bottom of the branch, 6-12" from the crotch. Saw the limb 1-2" up from the first cut, until it falls off. Now cut off the stub just outside the bark ridge where the branch meets the trunk.

To prune smaller branches, hold the shears or loppers so the cutting blade is closest to the remaining branch or trunk. Cut upwards or sideways, but NEVER downwards. This will prevent the limb from tearing the bark as it falls.

The following is a list of branches to look for when you plan to go out and prune your trees:

- \*prune suckers
- \*low-lying branches within 25" of the ground
- \*weak, unproductive wood
- \*dead or diseased wood
- \*branches rubbing each other (Take out the younger one)
- \*branches crossing through the center tree
- \*branches shading lower branches, closer than 6"
- \*branches with narrow crotch angles
- \*branches competing with the central leader



Pruning cuts should be made close to the main limb or trunk so the tree will close off the wound.

Pruning of tree roses are somewhat similar. Examine the plant for dead or diseased branches (old branches look grey to black and shriveled). Remove the old canes and center canes, to enhance form and to promote new, stronger growth. Trim back hollow canes a few inches at a time, until you see no signs of rot or discolored wood.

Make a final pruning cut about 1/4" above the eyes (buds). Make the cut angled towards the center of the plants so that any water will drain off. The eye should point away from the center of the plant. The finished bush should form a vase-shaped plant with 5-6 healthy canes remaining.

If you have questions or if you would like us to arrange our tree surgeon to come out to your house, please give us a call 1-818-222-7477

