

PRUNING EVERGREENS

General Rules

1. For every branch trimmed, two will replace it in time. This is particularly true of evergreens. If you want your spreading juniper to remain full in the centre, you must trim off the tips of those small branches protruding from the middle of the plant, as opposed to merely cutting off the long sprays emanating from the outer edges of the plant.
2. Always trim out dead or dying branches. This reduces the spread of disease leaving only healthy foliage to maximize photosynthesis.
3. When trimming, think of it as layer – cutting someone's hair. By thinning branches from all areas, the plant can develop uniformly thus reducing the possibility of bare spots.
4. Trees should not be allowed to develop two leaders especially when young, as they can produce an unbalanced crown and produce a major structural weakness which can lead to splitting in ice or wind storms.
5. Trim off at least one of the branches that rub in the wind. Left untreated, eventually both branches lose their bark and die.
6. Trim when the particular plant will respond or recover the best. This varies with species but usually means trimming at a time when the plant has a good part of the growing season ahead.

Pines have only one flush of growth which ends about mid June. By trimming the candles sometime in early to mid June, a new whorl of buds will develop at the end of the pruned shoot that same season. Trimming in July or later should be done with care as this is too late for new bud development.



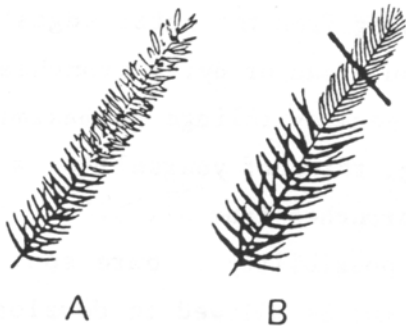
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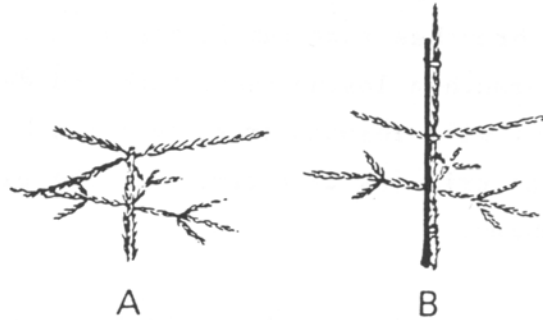
B

Pruning of pine. Example *A*. Stage at which to prune pine. New shoots first appear as fingerlike projections from terminal buds. By pruning these at this stage, the length of subsequent growth can be controlled as example *B*

Spruce do not develop new buds as readily on the current season's growth when trimmed. However, they do have bud initials continuously along the new growth. When pruning try to cut above a bud initial which points into an opening in the plants shape. Occasionally terminal buds may freeze in which case a new leader should be tied up as a replacement.



Pruning of spruce and fir. Although shearing is commonly practiced with these trees, it is not recommended unless confined to new growth just after growing points have begun to elongate. A – normal terminal growth at the end of the growing season. B – to control quantity of growth, prune as shown early in the growing season. This allows new shoot buds to form normally. Pruning later than this may remove buds that have started to develop.



Replacing a leader on spruce. A lateral branch can be trained upward to form a new leader. It must be supported as shown in B for at least one growing season.

Upright Junipers are difficult to contain after many years in the landscape. It is important to trim these regularly from the start in order to keep them to a manageable size. When pruning, it is best to layer or feather cut to allow growth in the center of the plant.



Pruning of spreading junipers. When removing branches or parts of branches from these plants, make the cuts close to branch junctions. Cuts should not be obvious and may be made at any time of the year.

Spreading Junipers should have the center of the plant trimmed regularly as well as the outer edge as previously mentioned. Branches should be removed in layers to avoid an outer shell of foliage only. With both juniper types, “don’t be afraid to trim off too much”

Upright Cedars respond well to vigorous trimming at almost any time of the year. The bottom half of upright cedars grows much slower than the top half. Thus, when shaping these plants keep the pruning of the bottom to a minimum. In doing so the entire plant will appear full. The disturbing brown foliage on cedars is either natural die off of the three year old foliage (in the center of the plant) or cedar leaf miner, under watering or pet damage.

Globe Cedars require little pruning to keep their shape. If the plant grows too large, it can be reduced in size but only as far back as there is green foliage. Cedars, as most evergreens, do not rejuvenate new foliage readily from woody tissue.