

# Growing Tips

## Pruning Hacks

### Common Beliefs

Chopping the entire top of trees ensures they don't damage my home.

Crepe Myrtles require a removal of all inner and outer branches.

My flowers have all turned brown and wilting. I should cut the entire stem.

I should leave the suckers at the base of my tree.

### Summary

We are nearing pruning season! It won't be long before shears, saws and more are in full force to give yards the manicured look most people crave for their bushes and trees. Please consider the bush or tree type, their natural form and why they may have been planted in the first place.

This document serves as a quick summary of pruning tips. I created this hack sheet with my "Crepe Murderers" and "Tree Topper" neighbors in mind. This season, I put together a one pager for you to kill less and grow more in each, effective chop. Constructing a one-pager for the essential information makes the tips easier to apply and keep up with. Don't hesitate to share your pruning updates with me on Instagram @lets\_talk\_gardening. As always, keep growing!

Target audience	Beginner to Intermediate pruners
<b>Key Information</b>	
	<p><b>Kill less trees</b></p> <p>Topping will NOT prevent damage to home. In fact, you are weakening the tree or bush, making it more susceptible to disease and decaying when you top it. All may cause the tree to fall. If you prune the crown properly, it will maintain it's good health and natural form/shape.</p>
	<p><b>Not less, but more maintenance</b></p> <p>Topping causes the tree to sprout and require more pruning due to watersprouts that grow in clusters as a result of topping. Watersprouts are shoots that grow on tree trunks or branches.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Need a custom pruning plan for your trees?</b></p> <p>Schedule a consultation with me to get a customized game plan for your trees at <a href="http://www.letstalkgardening.net">www.letstalkgardening.net</a>.</p>

## Pruning

### Tip #1

Look at the bottom. Do you see little, thin branches surrounding the main branches? If so, remove them. Any protruding branches up to five feet should be removed.

### Tip #2

Look in the center of the tree. Are there any crossing or dead branches? If so, remove them.

### Tip #3

Look for overlap in the center and low lying branches that are thin. Remove thin branches and any watersprouts.

### Tip #4

If you've pruned over half the tree's height, you've went too far. Reel it in a bit by stopping and seeing what's left, if anything. Sometimes, it's best to only chop the dead parts.

## Why do we prune?

### Healthy Trees Thrive

In order to grow a healthy tree, pruning is needed. Pruning allows proper use of nutrients. If dead branches are left in a growing tree, the tree is at risk for disease and pests. Also, dead branches can cause injuries or property damage. Lastly, tree wounds heal quicker with pruning.

### Air Flow

Creating air flow in trees allow photosynthesis to occur since the tree is able to receive more sunlight. Air flow makes room for trees to develop and fill in properly, creating a lush, healthy tree canopy.

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## Relevant Resources

### Road to 500K Trees Planted by 2050

As a Tree Captain for the Root Nashville campaign, I encourage you to sign up to receive free, native trees. In doing so, you will be helping to restore and revitalize Nashville's aging tree canopy. We need your help!

<https://www.jotform.com/241343175382151>

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### Pruning Demonstrations

#### Make a Clean Cut

<https://youtube.com/shorts/6VA7JDubGqA?si=obSZzVVbjVwVnUeP>

#### When to Prune and Tips

[https://youtu.be/q1IHqAZxLrc?si=xDfh9\\_DD0kQYN05E](https://youtu.be/q1IHqAZxLrc?si=xDfh9_DD0kQYN05E)

Look into Dr. Alex Shigo's works for more tree care information

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## Let's Talk Gardening LLC

Let's Talk Gardening LLC (LTG) is an educational service for all types of growers. LTG is on a mission to address food scarcity by teaching people how to grow food in their existing spaces. Our initiative prioritizes Mother Earth, as we are dedicated to minimizing harm to this beautiful planet.

<https://letstalkgardening.net>

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