Pruning Basics

**Tools(6 primary)**

Hand pruners: anvil and bypass-stems up to ½” diameter

Loppers-1/2” – 1”

Hand saw- Larger than 1” or areas unreachable by others

Pole Pruners- limbs not easily accessible within arm’s reach, pruner: up to 1” diameter; saw up to 3-4” or as long as you would like to attempt.

Pruning shears-usually for heading back dense shrubs

Chainsaw- large applications; equipment training necessary, and safety gear recommended- face, ear, gloves, chaps

* **Timing (4 general rules)**

ASAP- for seasonal and insect damage

Winter /Early Spring- for summer flowering shrubs/trees

Early Spring/Summer- for spring flowering shrubs/trees

AVOID pruning in the heat of the summer -INSECT AND DISEASES

**Techniques and Tips**

Use: Sharp Tools

Correctly

On young trees to train them so other cuts will be less severe!

Branch collar-do not cut the branch collar area!

Pruning- removing selected portions of a tree (roots, too)

Raising-up- from the bottom for pedestrian, walkways, ect

Heading back- even cut all the way around, to promote over-all growth

Crown thinning- strategic cuts from the main leader to thin the tree

Rejuvenation pruning- cutting far back or old wood to encourage new growth

Double leaders- more than one will cause 2 weak stems

Wayward, inward and crossing- removing these branches to enhance form and encourage good air circulation

BAD HABITS

Topping off- just the tree tops >>>DO NOT DO THIS! UGLY ☹

Tipping- just the sides

Shearing- created plants into unnatural forms…unless it’s topiary☺