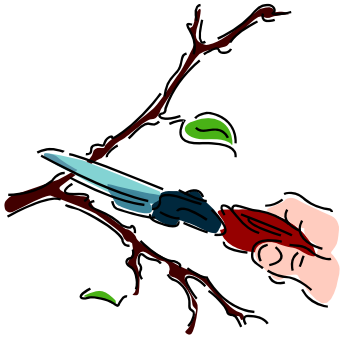


Bronx Green-Up • THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN



Bronx Green-Up, the outreach program of The New York Botanical Garden, provides horticultural advice, technical assistance, and training to community gardeners, school groups, and other organizations interested in improving urban neighborhoods through greening projects. At the heart of Bronx Green-Up are the community gardens of the Bronx and a compost education program. For additional information, contact Bronx Green-Up at 718.817.8026 or bronxgreenup@nybg.org.

Pruning Tools Maintenance

We all know how important it is to have the right tool for the job, but many of us do not realize how important it is to take proper care of the tool so that it continues to perform at its peak. This holds true especially for garden tools.

Everyday Tips for Maintaining Your Pruning Tools

- After each use, clean your tools with soap and water and dry them. Wipe the blades with an oily rag to remove sap.
- Disinfect the tools if you have used them on plants that are diseased so that you do not spread the disease to another plant.
- Wipe or spray metal parts with oil or other lubricant to prevent rust.
- Keep your pruning tools in a safe and dry place. Never leave them outdoors.
- Use a fine-grain, waterproof sandpaper to remove buildup on the blade.
- Periodically tighten the blade tension.
- Replace blades that are damaged or worn.



Hand Pruners

There are many types of hand pruners on the market. Choose one that matches the type of work you are doing and feels comfortable in your hands. A good hand pruner can last a lifetime if you take care of it.

Cleaning Hand Pruners

In order to clean your hand pruners thoroughly you will need to disassemble it.

- Loosen and remove the nut in the center of the hand pruner. If it's difficult to turn, you may need to spray it with lubricant.



- Remove the spring from the middle of the hand pruner by jiggling it or by pulling it down.



- Place the other small parts aside and spray them with a lubricant; you can also use a small brush to clean inside the hard-to-reach areas.
- If the blade is blunt, sharpen it on a stone (wet the stone first) or other sharpening tool. Move the sharpening tool against the blade at the same angle as the blade. If the blade is beyond sharpening, you'll need to replace it. But if you have a good tool, it can take years before you need a new blade.



- Clean the blade with fine sandpaper (used for metal).
- Reassemble the hand pruner. Spray it again to prevent rust.