

Plant Management is one of the most important practices to maintaining any landscape. A natural pruning technique promotes the natural beauty of the shrubs and ground covers in the landscape. We have created this information sheet to hopefully help Power Ranch better understand the "Rejuvenation Cut Back" and "Selective Pruning" management techniques that we use in the community.

Our general definition of a "Rejuvenation Cut Back" is removing the bulk of the plant material from the shrub and ground covers so that the shrubs are left approximately 12"-18" tall or to the main core of the ground cover. Each plant may be treated slightly different as to its condition, but in essence this practice is a heavier pruning of the plant that is typically performed as needed outside of the plants flowering period. It is not always necessary to cut back all the plants every year. After evaluating the plants on the property, only certain species or areas may need to be cut back from year to year. Keep in mind the impact frost can have on certain species before performing any type of heavy pruning.

In the months of Oct through Dec we perform pruning on the Ornamental Grass, Red Bird of Paradise, Cordia, and Fairy Duster. These plants will have lost any flowers, are more resistant to frost conditions, and will grow very little in the colder weather. Dec through Jan our focus turns to the large number of Sage. Feb through April we begin the heavier trimming of the frost sensitive plant material such as Lantana, Ruellia, Yellow Bells and Bougainvillea.



### Why perform a "Rejuvenation Cut Back"?

- To revitalize a sheared shrub. When shrubs are continually sheared the plant becomes very woody and bare looking. Continual pruning of plants also requires more frequent watering to maintain a healthy appearance. Also, flowers are continually being removed.
- To help keep the plants contained within their intended space without having to continually shear them. Replacing plants in this situation with different

species that will fit the intended space is another great option.

- To rejuvenate old shrubs by removing older wood and leaving younger healthier wood. This helps to promote flowering since most flowering shrubs will bloom either on 1-year old growth or on the new growth.

### What you expect to see from a "Rejuvenation Cut Back"

The first step is cutting back the plant material to an appropriate height. This will also remove any frost damage from the plants that may have occurred during the year or winter months. Next the focus should turn to trimming or thinning some of the "old large" branches to promote and provide room for new growth. Typically, within the first 30 days of the growing season you will see new growth appear rapidly. As we approach summer you will begin to see more and more flowers on several of the different shrubs and ground covers.

Summer is the growing season for most of the plants, so this is the time that we want to help control the growth using "Selective Pruning". Selective Pruning is a method of only pruning the unwanted growth from the plant. This would include awkward growth, crossing branches and deadwood. The goal is to keep the natural look of the shrub and help promote flowering. The practice of constant and frequent shearing and shaping can lead to the decline of a plant.



Heavy pruning on frost sensitive plant material such as lantana, Ruellia, natal plum, bougainvillea, yellow bells, orange jubilee, etc. should be performed when risk of frost subsides; typically, in early March. This allows the plant to have some insulation during the cold nights.

Please remember that Pruning is an invigorating process and one of the most important parts of managing and promoting a sustainable landscape.