

REJUVENATION PRUNING:

Reassurance for Homeowners

Rejuvenation pruning is essential to renew and invigorate plants, promoting healthy growth and maintaining their aesthetic appeal. Many homeowners in Arizona may feel apprehensive about pruning their plants due to concerns about size reduction and potential damage. However, it is important to understand that rejuvenation pruning can benefit numerous plant species, offering them a fresh start and ensuring their long-term health.



REJUVENATION PRUNING involves the removal of older, unproductive wood to stimulate new growth from the plant's base or lower stems. The process aims to revitalize plants, improve their overall vigor, increase flowering or fruit production, and maintain their desired size and shape.

The appropriate size for rejuvenation pruning varies depending on the plant species. Certain species of shrubs often respond well to rejuvenation pruning. When these plants become overgrown, they can be pruned back to approximately one-third of their original size. This size reduction helps to rejuvenate the plant and encourages vigorous new growth. Some common shrubs include Bougainvillea (Bougainvillea spp.), Texas Sage (Leucophyllum spp.), Lantana (Lantana spp.), and Oleanders (Nerium oleander). **Ornamental grasses can be rejuvenated by cutting them back to a few inches above the ground in late winter or early spring.** This helps to remove dead foliage and stimulates new growth. Some common ornamental grasses in Phoenix and Tucson include Deer Grass (Muhlenbergia rigens).



Homeowners often worry that rejuvenation pruning may harm their plants or leave them looking unsightly. However, it is important to remember that plants are resilient and will often respond positively to rejuvenation pruning. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

1. TIMING:

Perform rejuvenation pruning during the appropriate time of year for each specific plant species. Research or consult local experts to determine the best time for pruning each plant. **A basic guideline is to be done with the renovation pruning by April 15th.** This allows the plants to produce enough new foliage to shade the stems before the heat gets intense enough in May or June to burn the wood.

2. PATIENCE:

After rejuvenation pruning, it may take some time for the plants to bounce back and produce new growth. Be patient and allow the plants to recover, providing them with proper care and maintenance.



3. MAINTENANCE:

Regular maintenance practices, such as proper watering, pruning, fertilization, and pest control, will help support the rejuvenation process and ensure the long-term health of the plants.

