

## The importance of pruning

**Pruning is one of the most important garden maintenance tasks to improve the health and appearance of your trees, shrubs and hedges.**

Pruning helps you control the overall size, shape and density of your plants. Proper pruning promotes flowering, fruit production and renewal. Pruning allows air and sunlight to reach the plant's interior, boosting its overall health and protecting it from disease.

Pruning should be done only when necessary – some plants don't require pruning. Unnecessary pruning will cause the plant to focus on healing instead of growing, can shorten the plant's lifespan and can make the plant susceptible to disease.

### **Why the plant habitat matters**

Although pruning can revive a plant, it is not a one-size-fits-all solution and will not always produce the desired result. Spindly or excessively long annual growth can be due to an incorrect planting location that is too dark, sunny, dry or wet. The soil may not provide enough nutrients, or surrounding plants might be absorbing all of them.

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