



PRUNING THE RIGHT WAY

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO PRUNING
YOUR GARDEN BACK TO LIFE

Sharp, clean cuts of up to 25mm with the razor-sharp blades made from SK5 steel, the hardest steel on the market

A low-maintenance design thanks to the corrosion-resistant SK5 steel blades with Teflon coating

Rust-resistant and friction-less Teflon non-stick coating (PFTE)

Easily cut wires with the built-in wire cutter

Comfortable grip featuring a non-slip rubber handle and shock absorption



Prolonged usage through our lifetime warranty and extra blade

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Pruning The Right Way eBook!

- 🌿 Do you find pruning a hassle?
- 🌿 Do you never know whether you're chopping off the right branch?
- 🌿 Or maybe you're unsure if you're actually doing more harm than good?

Well this is the eBook for you.

Pruning can be quick and easy. You just need to know how to do it right.

And that's what we're here to show you.

We've created this eBook to give you the best collection of knowledge and advice for pruning the RIGHT way. Including the general rules you should follow when pruning, how to master different cutting techniques for optimal results AND how to keep your shears in the best condition to save you money in the long run.



This eBook is jam-packed with a ton of great practical information that you can actually put into practice today.

It's easy once you know how. We promise!

Never again will you second-guess yourself before snipping a branch.

We'll even show you which plants need pruning in which seasons. By the end of this eBook you'll have pruning mastered. You'll have complete control over your garden and best of all... Your garden will look absolutely stunning!

Passers-by will be in awe of your glistening green garden. Neighbours will be begging you to show them how you did it. You'll feel so incredibly proud of what you've accomplished.

So why did we write this book?

Well for one we care a whole lot about our customers. You mean a great deal to us. Your willingness to take care of your plants is very admirable. So we want to do everything we can to help you out.

By showing you how to properly use your Alpha Six Pruning Shears we're not only helping you, we're also doing our part to support nature too. And we wouldn't be in this business if we didn't absolutely love nature.

Now we want you to close your eyes for a minute and imagine something...

Imagine walking through your garden. Leafy green plants on either side of you, glittering in the sun. The fragrant smell of rain in the air. Only a few months ago your garden was full of dull, droopy and lifeless plants. Not anymore. Imagine how you would feel knowing that YOU have created this wonderland. All by yourself.

Let that sink in for a minute.



Yes, we can give you the knowledge and advice, but you're the one that puts it into action. You create a home for nature. A sanctuary for all forms of life. A sanctuary for yourself.

So join us on the journey to mastering pruning the EASY way.

You've taken the first step to getting a beautiful garden just by getting yourself a copy of this eBook.

And now it's time to take the next step.

So without further ado, let's get started!

CHAPTER 1: HOW TO APPROACH PRUNING

INTRODUCTION

Do you want your plants to truly thrive? Well pruning is definitely the way to go. For those of you that are still unsure, pruning is the process of removing dead stems and branches to help increase a plant's lifespan and growth. It's perfect for increasing a plant's fruitfulness too.

In this chapter we'll be showing you the top strategies for efficient and effective pruning, why pruning is so important, and what not to do with your Alpha Six Pruning Shears as well as what you should be doing.

So let's get into it!



THE IMPORTANCE OF PRUNING

Pruning is a necessary feat if you want to maintain a beautifully green garden. With the Alpha Six Pruning Shears you can accomplish this and so much more. It's easy really.

There are so many benefits to pruning. For one, you'll be rejuvenating the plant. By trimming away any dying stems you'll give the plant a fresh new feeling. Just like when you get your hair cut. Don't you feel ten times better? Well it's exactly the same for a plant.

Training a plant is another great reason. This is especially good for overgrown shrubs and bushes. If you cut off any overgrown stems and branches you can keep the plant at a specific size and shape. Regular pruning can train the plant to grow in a particular way too. Overtime the plant will learn which way is the best way to grow

and you can guide it every step of the way.

Ultimately health is the main reason to prune a plant. Diseased areas of a plant can spread quickly, taking over the whole plant. Destroying every part it reaches. So to prevent this from happening and effectively save the plant's life you want to trim it below the source of infection. Dying or dead stems and branches are an easy entry point for insects and disease. So it's not just diseased sections you need to remove. Keep that in mind.

Safety is important too. Dead branches on trees can be dangerous. The last thing you want is to be walking through your garden and a branch falls on you or any of your family members. That could be seriously painful. To avoid that you should nip disease and death in the bud. Catching it early prevents excessive harm to the tree overall and protects you and other people from falling branches.

PRUNING DO'S AND DON'TS

The Alpha Six Pruning Shears are a very versatile tool. But, like with most gardening gadgets there are certain things that you can and cannot do with them. And

we're going to show you exactly what they are. We've also included some general rules for pruning to make life that little bit easier.

Do's



SHARPEN YOUR SHEARS

Sharp shears give you a smooth, clean cut. The easiest way to remember when to sharpen your hand pruner is to just do it every time you use it.



WEAR PROTECTION

Gardening gloves are a great way to prevent damage to your hands and safety glasses are useful if you end up working with sharp stems and branches.



KEEP YOUR PRUNERS CLEAN

You can really prevent against rusting by storing your shears in a dry location away from rain and moisture. Clean them after each use to keep them at their best and place them back in a protective case for added safety.



INSPECT AND EVALUATE THE PLANTS REGULARLY

Checking your plants on a regular basis makes it easier to keep them alive and healthy. Remove dead, dying and diseased branches as soon as you notice them. At any point throughout the year. All they're doing is damaging the plant.



TOP TIP

For best results file along the edge of the blade with a fine tooth file.

DON'TS



DON'T PRUNE WITHOUT GOOD REASON

You'll end up doing more damage than good. Only prune when you have a purpose and are actually sure of what you're trimming.



LEAVE BRANCHES THICKER THAN 1 INCH ALONE

Hand pruner aren't made to cut through branches with diameters thicker than 1 inch. All you'll end up doing if you try is damage the branches and your pruners.



FALL ISN'T FOR PRUNING

Not matter what do not prune any shrub type in fall. If you do, it could end up stimulating late-season growth. And that won't leave enough time for the plant to harden so you'll essentially be weakening and damaging the plant.



PRUNING CUTS SHOULDN'T BE TREATED

Pruning seal can actually inhibit a plant's natural healing process so it's not recommended. Plants can heal themselves just like we can. Give them time and they will do so.

TOP PRUNING METHODS

Let's go back to the basics. There are four basic types of pruning that can create significantly different results. These

techniques will take you far and are useful for whatever level of experience you have.

PINCHING

This simple procedure is aptly named. It's super easy too. Literally all it involves is pinching off dying or dead buds from plants. No tools required just your hands. Or fingers to be more specific. It's the same technique as if you went to pinch yourself after something incredible happens. The point of pinching is to encourage thick growth. You'll want to use the pinching technique mainly on annuals, perennials and small-leafed shrubs. It'll remove terminal growth.



HEADING

Heading is similar to the pinching option but much more aggressive. For this technique you end up trimming the stem at a point much further down (See image). The aim is to coax dense growth for a much fuller appearance. You'll be removing part of the stem with heading.



THINNING

Thinning is great technique if you want to really open up the plant. You can use it to remove stems and branches so that only the main branch is left. It's also great if your plant has branches that cross or rub. You can remove them too. This procedure eliminated the entire stem.



SHEARING

The main use for the shearing method is on hedges and bushes. It's used to create that distinctive spherical or square form you always see in people's gardens. Shearing stimulates numerous buds to produce new growth. This technique is used on plants that have many lateral buds. All of them are quite close together too. If you decide to use this technique there is one thing to keep in mind. Choose small-leafed plants. That way the cuts you make through the leaves will be much less noticeable.



CHAPTER 2: HOW TO USE YOUR PRUNING SHEARS CORRECTLY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second chapter everyone!

It's now time to show you how to use your **Alpha Six Pruning Shears** the right way. Correct use can ensure a lengthy lifespan and save you time and money as well.

Pruning shears are very easy to use. All you have to do is locate the stem or branch you want to remove and place the blades on either side of it. Then simply squeeze the handles and you'll cut through the branch. You'll want to stick to stems with a diameter smaller than 1 inch or you'll experience problems. Thicker branches tend to be harder to cut through so only trim what you can. Don't force it. Just go by your own hand strength.

BEFORE YOU START

Before you even start pruning you should check your shears are clean, sharp and in good working order.

Having clean blades before you start makes your job a whole lot easier. The cuts you will be making will have a smoother finish. Plus, you won't be contaminating the plant with whatever bacteria's coating the blade. It's so easy to keep your blades clean too. All you need is soap and white vinegar.

Sharp blades take out a lot of the hard work involved in pruning. In the previous chapter we spoke about sharpening your blade. So feel free to go back and remind yourself (it's under the "do's" section). We definitely recommend sharpening your blade before you use it. And then clean it to remove any residue left over from the file or shavings of the blade.

Pruning shears in good working order work well. Ones that aren't don't. It's as simple as that. You should be able to recognise if something is off with your shears. They just won't feel right. The blades may not be aligned or it might feel too stiff when you squeeze the handles together. Using the shears when you experience problems like these could end up damaging them further. So you're better off fixing the problems early on before they get too severe.

Don't worry we're going to go into more detail about maintaining your **Alpha Six Pruning Shears** in Chapter 4. And what to do if you experience the problems mentioned above among others.

HOW TO MAKE THE BEST CUT

The first step to making the best cut is to choose where to cut.

You'll want to evaluate the plant in its entirety and then choose a branch that needs cutting. The best way to decide this is to refer to the 3 D's. Dead, damaged or diseased. These are the main reasons for pruning, but you can also prune for other reasons too. Thinning or shaping the plant for instance.

After you've chosen the stem or branch that needs trimming you'll now need to find a good area to make the cut. This depends mainly on the type of plant you're working with. Remember, your main aim when making cuts is to speed up the healing process. Every cut is a wound afterall.

OLD HARDWOOD TREES & SHRUBS (OVER 1 YEARS OLD)

Right so here's what you want to look out for. At the base of the branch you're planning to cut there will be a "collar" of sorts. This "collar" will encircle the branch forming a ring. You'll want to cut just above this ring. Not into it. Ever. On older trees this area is much larger. Therefore it's more visible too.



TOP TIP

Here's how to make a great cut, that'll promote new growth effectively.

All you have to do is find a bud or offshoot that is pointing in the direction you want. So, it'll need to be pointing towards where you want it to grow in the future. Then simply cut a little above the node. You may find that you have to cut away more wood to really get this cut. That's totally fine though.



CONIFER & HARDWOOD (OVER 3 YEARS OLD)

The older plants get, the harder they are to prune. This is especially true for conifer wood and hardwood, mostly because their buds tend to become enshrouded within the wood. If you have some conifer wood or hardwood in your garden, we have some advice for you. Simply make your incision at whatever place you would like. Regrowth may take time, or it may not happen at all. It all depends on whether the wood is healthy enough. If the plant does start growing again from that point you can follow up with further cuts to remove any leftover dead or dying wood.

SMALLER PLANTS

When working with smaller plants you should find a strong node that has more than one healthy buds. Nodes are the areas on plants that hold leaves and buds. So you'll want to make your cut just above this node in the internode. The internode is the space between nodes on a plant.



PRUNING TIPS AND TECHNIQUES

Your Alpha Six Pruning Shears are the easiest tool in the shed to use. We're not kidding. Literally all you have to do

is place a stem or branch in between the two blades and squeeze the handles. Squeezing the handles pushes the top blade towards and past the thick base. Hence the name Bypass pruners. This cuts the stem or branch. Job done.

We've got some tips and techniques for you that will really help you out.

So let's get into them.

UPSIDE DOWN WORKS

A great technique we've found, is to flip your pruners when you're cutting very close to a main stem. By upside down we mean that the blade is on the underside and the base is on top. Got it? When you're doing this just keep in mind that when you squeeze the handles the blade will shift about a quarter of an inch. Hence the cut will shift too.



ANGLES ARE IMPORTANT

OPPOSITE-BRANCHING

Opposite-branching is where the branches or stems grow directly across from each other on a branch. We advise you cut straight across the branch just above the node. No angle is required for this cut at all.

ALTERNATE-BRANCHING

This differs for alternate-branching. Like the name suggests, the branches or stems alternate on which side they grow. So, you won't find two stem growing out of the same node. If the stem is growing on the left hand side of a node, the node above and below will have a stem growing out of the right side. Make sense?

Right so when making a cut you'll want to cut away from the node at a 45° angle. Hence you will start to cut at a lower point on the opposite side of the bud and end at a higher point on the same side as the bud.

ONE CUT VS MULTIPLE CUTS

You may be tempted to use your secateurs like scissors and make small snips through a branch. Don't do this. Not only will you wear the blade down quicker, but you'll also make your hand tired. By the end of the pruning session your hands will be knackered.

What you want to do is this: Relax your hand so the pruners are completely open. Then place the stem or branch fully between the blade and base. If it doesn't fit then you shouldn't really be

using your Alpha Sixes to cut it. If it does just squeeze the handles and you'll cut through the branch in one smooth cut.

SAY "NO" TO FATIGUE

Constant pruning can take its toll on your hands. But to give you the most protection we've taken that into account with the [Alpha Six Pruning Shears](#). They have a comfortable grip to reduce the stress on your hands and shock absorption to reduce the impact of each cut.

If you want to take it a step further we've come up with a few other tips you can try to protect your hands further.

What you'll want to do is, always use the deepest part of the blade when you make a cut. This is the best way to get maximum leverage. Another tip is to not use your fingertips. Instead you're going to want to use the bases of your fingers and the balls of your hand.

Like we've mentioned before, if you have trouble making a cut because of the thickness of the branch or your level of strength you should switch to a different tool. Try loppers instead.

PRUNERS ARE FOR PRUNING

We've all been there. There's a bit of metal wire that needs trimming. You've got your pruners handy. It'd be so easy. Don't do it though. All you're going to do is nick the blade and from then on every single cut you make in the future is going to be that little bit harder. It's not worth it. What you'll want to do is switch to the wire cutter that we've included with your pruning shears.

MINIMISE SAP LEAKAGE

Sap is the often clear fluid that circulates throughout the plant in its vascular system. Leakage generally occurs after you have cut a plant but you shouldn't worry. It's completely harmless. Considering sap leakage is basically like the plant bleeding you should really try to minimise it.

A benefit of using your [Alpha Six Pruning Shears](#) is that they have a Teflon non-stick coating [PFTE]. This helps protect the blades against the impact of sap leakage, preventing the blades from sticking together. There's also a sap

drain to allow the sap to move away from the blades.

GROWTH CYCLES

One way to do this is to prune at the right time. Not all plants should be pruned at the same time. Growth patterns are different as each plant has a different cycle. Just keep that in mind and the plants regrowth won't be affected. Also some plants bleed more than others so keep that in mind.

We'll discuss which plants are more prone to bleeding in the next chapter. You'll even learn when the best time to prune them is, as well.

NO BANDAIDS

After pruning you shouldn't bind or wrap a cut. Ventilation is key. It helps promote the healing process. If you try to bind or wrap the cut you will be impeding the ventilation. Also the binding will cause dampness which encourages the growth of bacteria, causing fungal diseases. Painting pruning cuts is a no go too. This is for the exact same reasons as binding and wrapping.

CHAPTER 3: WHAT TO PRUNE AND WHEN

INTRODUCTION

There are four main categories that plants fall into. Bryophytes, Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Angiosperms. Yes, we had trouble pronouncing them too. Good thing this isn't an audiobook right? Each plant type requires a different level of pruning. We've written this chapter to help you prune the right plants at the right time.

The last thing you want to do is to walk into your garden and find all your plants dead. And that's what could happen if you don't prune at the right time.

To make this chapter even more interesting we've decided to include some great tips and tricks. Follow these and you'll be well on your way towards an extremely beautiful garden overflowing in colourful vegetation. Instead of one that is full of death and disease. Because no one wants that.

Right, well we hope you enjoy this chapter!

PLANT TYPES

BRYOPHYTES

- ✦ Small; around 1-2cm tall
- ✦ Flowerless, fruitless, seedless
- ✦ Main types: mosses, hornworts and liverworts
- ✦ Non-vascular (don't have the correct tissues to develop roots, leaves and stems)
- ✦ Grow outwards; blanketing trees, leaves and rocks
- ✦ Use spores rather than seeds to reproduce

This will be the easiest type of plant you will ever prune. It won't even be hard work. Bryophytes aren't for everyone though. But keep in mind that they are still plants not weeds.



PTERIDOPHYTES

- ✦ Various sizes
- ✦ Flowerless, fruitless and seedless
- ✦ Main types: ferns, club mosses, horsetails
- ✦ Vascular (has the right tissues to grow leaves, stems and roots)
- ✦ Use spores to reproduce rather than seeds

As these are flowerless plants you won't ever have to put the deadheading technique into effect. You won't have to worry about pruning the plants to much, effectively preventing fruit growth, as they don't grow fruit either.



GYMNOSPERMS

- ✦ Various sizes
- ✦ Flowerless, fruitless
- ✦ Produce seeds
- ✦ Main types: conifers, cycads and ginkgo
- ✦ Vascular
- ✦ Have seeds without outer shells; unprotected by ovaries or fruit
- ✦ Reproduce by transferring pollen via wind

Pruning Gymnosperms are a great way to let your creative side run wild. The main pruning purposes are for aesthetic reasons so you can pretty much do what you like. Within reason of course.



ANGIOSPERMS

- ✦ Various sizes
- ✦ Flowered and fruitful
- ✦ Produce seeds
- ✦ Main types: monocotyledons and dicotyledons
- ✦ Vascular
- ✦ Seeds are formed within fruit
- ✦ Reproduce via the use of flowers

Angiosperm pruning allows you to put a lot of pruning techniques to use. It's a great way to practise and master all the different techniques.















WHAT TO PRUNE WHEN









This table does not contain an extensive list of plants that you can prune with







any tool. We've only included plants that can be pruned with your Alpha Six Pruning Shears. Remember, if you come across a branch that's too big don't try

and cut through it with your shears. Switch to a bigger tool. Also keep this in mind if you struggle cutting through a branch too.

PLANT TYPE	PRUNING SEASON	TOP TIP
 <p>CAPTION: Spring-Flowering Trees and Shrubs Bloom in Early Spring - E.g. lilac, rhododendron, forsythia</p>	 <p>Late Spring</p>	<p>Remove old stems all the way down to the ground to allow for new stems to grow</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Summer-Blooming Trees and Shrubs E.g. butterfly bush, potentilla, crape myrtle</p>	 <p>Winter - Whilst still dormant Early Spring - Just before regrowth</p>	<p>You can always prune down to the ground in late winter and it won't negatively affect their growth</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Hydrangeas E.g. mophead, lacecap, oakleaf</p>	 <p>Before Mid-Summer</p>	<p>Don't prune in early spring or you'll be trimming off flower buds</p>

PLANT TYPE	PRUNING SEASON	TOP TIP
 <p>CAPTION: Hidden Bloom / Foliage Shrubs E.g. barberry, burning bush</p>	 <p>Anytime apart from late Autumn</p>	<p>If you want to do a lot of pruning for this plant type, prune in winter as it's still dormant</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Roses Bloom in Spring - E.g. climbers, old garden roses Repeat bloomers - E.g. hybrid teas, floribundas, modern shrub roses</p>	 <p>Late Spring - After blooming has finished Early Spring</p>	<p>These roses only bloom once per year so you'll never prune at the wrong time</p> <p>You only need to prune these to shape them and remove winter damage</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Deciduous Shade Trees E.g. oak, ash, linden</p>	 <p>Winter</p>	<p>To reduce bleeding prune these in the summer</p>

PLANT TYPE	PRUNING SEASON	TOP TIP
 <p>CAPTION: Deciduous Fruit Trees E.g. apples, peaches, plums</p>	 <p>Mid-Winter</p>	<p>Dip your shears in rubbing alcohol to prevent the spread of disease</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Broadleaf Evergreens E.g. holly, some magnolia types, mahonia</p>	 <p>Early Spring</p>	<p>You can always prune these throughout the year, just keep it minor</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Needle-Leaf Evergreens E.g. fir, juniper, cypress</p>	 <p>Early Spring</p>	<p>Avoid pruning branches that have no green needles as there may not be any regrowth</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Perennial Flowers E.g. peony, clematis, dianthus</p>	 <p>Remove faded flowers (deadheading)</p>	<p>Trim them down to 6-12 inches above the ground if they become too tall or floppy</p>

PLANT TYPE	PRUNING SEASON	TOP TIP
 <p>CAPTION: Annual Flowers E.g. begonia, gladiolus, lilies</p>	 <p>Deadhead regularly</p>	<p>Promote thick regrowth the same way as perennials [see above]</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Bush Berries E.g. blueberry, currant, gooseberry</p>	 <p>Winter</p>	<p>Remove old stems by cutting at ground level</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Grape Vines E.g. riverbank, frost, catbird</p>	 <p>Winter</p>	<p>If you want produce some great grapes prune near the lateral arms</p>

PLANTS PRONE TO BLEEDING





Plants, like humans, are different in many ways. For one, some plants tend to leak sap more than others. Unfortunately, there isn't a cure for this. But you can do something. And we talked about this

a bit in the previous chapter. Do you remember? We said that there are certain points in a plant's growth cycle that are better for pruning.

So let's tell you about them.

We've even put it in another table for you.

Oh and just to remind you, these are plants that you can prune with your Alpha Six Pruning Shears. But like we've said before, if you come across a branch that is too thick or hard to cut through. Choose a different tool. Safety first guys.

PLANT TYPE	PRUNING SEASON
 <p>CAPTION: Poplar [Populus]</p>	 <p>Late Summer or Early Autumn</p>
 <p>CAPTION: Birch [Betula]</p>	 <p>Late Summer to Mid-Winter [Try to avoid any pruning if you can]</p>



CAPTION:
Maple
[Acer]
Japanese
Snakebark



Before January [After leaf fall]
Late Summer



CAPTION:
Pecan and Hickory
[Carya]



Autumn or
Early Winter



CAPTION:
Walnut
[Juglans]



Mid-Summer before
Mid-Winter



CAPTION:
Mulberry
[Morus]



Autumn to
Early Winter



CAPTION:
Lime
[Tilia]



Mid-Summer to
Mid-Winter



CAPTION:
Grape Vine
[Vitis]



Before Christmas
[After leaf fall]



CAPTION:
Hornbeam
[Carpinus]



Late Summer to
Mid-Winter



CAPTION:
Deciduous (Spring-Flowering Types Only)
[Magnolia]



Early to
Mid-Summer

CHAPTER 4: MAINTAIN YOUR PRUNING SHEARS THE RIGHT WAY

INTRODUCTION

Just like with most things in life to make your pruning shears last you have to maintain them. Cleaning, sharpening the blade and replacing it all helps. These processes are so easy to do as well. After a while they'll take you no time at all. And if you clean and sharpen your blade regularly it'll last a whole lot longer.

Let's show you how easy it is.

HOW TO KEEP YOUR PRUNERS CLEAN

Pruners are just like any other gardening tool. They get dirty. That's just the way it goes. And dirt can really end up damaging your Alpha Six Pruning Shears. You see, dirt acts like a sponge. It attracts moisture and moisture causes rust.

The blades of your Alpha Six Pruning Shears are made of SK5 steel and have a rust-resistant and friction-less Tef-

lon non-stick coating (PFTE). This helps against rust but you still need to clean them so that they last a long, long time.

So it's vital that you keep your secateurs clean.

Also clean shears as so much easier to use. No more straining your muscles squeezing the handles together. Plus, who doesn't want their job to be that little bit easier?



👉 STEP 1: DETERMINE THE DIRT

The first thing you should do is determine the level of dirt on your hand pruners. This will determine which method you should use to clean them effectively.

👉 STEP 2: CLEAN

If the blades are clogged with clumps of dirt, debris and rust you should use this method: Grab a small wire brush, about the same size as a toothbrush. You'll also need a bowl or bucket with some soapy water in it. Warm water works well at breaking down dirt so keep that in mind.

Now, wet the brush and scrub the metal to remove all the dirt. Wet the brush consistently throughout to make the job easier. You can even dip the shears in the water to remove any residue. Brush in whatever motion feels comfortable until the metal is clean.

👉 STEP 3: DISINFECT

Now you should disinfect the blades. You don't need to go out and buy an expensive cleaning product either. All you need is white vinegar. It's a natural cleaning agent. It'll fight against any bacteria preventing you from passing disease from plant to plant. We mentioned this briefly in Chapter 2. We recommend you disinfect your shears before moving on to the next plant, if the previous plant had some diseased branches.

👉 STEP 4: DRY

Drying your shears is so important. The last thing you want is them to get rusty. Any cloth will work. Try not to pick one with loose fibres as they could end up clogging the blades. And you'll end up spending longer trying to remove them.

👉 STEP 5: LUBRICATE

The final step is to coat the blades with oil. This will lubricate them, making every future cut ten times easier to make. WD-40 is a great product to use. It's such a versatile liquid that you're bound to use again and again throughout your home. Well worth the investment.

Rust is such a big problem with gardening tools, which is why we've made sure your pruning shears have a protective

coating. They're constantly surrounded by moisture so it seems difficult to prevent this from occurring. WD-40 is the answer though. It'll stop future rust from building up so you should start using it right from the beginning. Don't wait until you see the first signs of rust.

Spray the oil on the mechanism and the blades. Then use a rag or paper towel to wipe off any excess, leaving behind a thin layer.

HOW TO REPLACE THE BLADES

At some point during the life of your Alpha Six Pruning Shears you will need to replace the blade. This'll depend on how often your shears and how heavy the workload is. Not to worry though.

STEP 1: SAFETY FIRST

First things first, you should put some protective gloves on. We suggest leather ones as they'll offer your hands the most protection whilst still allowing you to grip everything securely.

Goggles are important too. You should always protect your eyes as you never know what could happen. Better safe than sorry, right?

STEP 2: UNLATCH AND DETACH

Now unlatch the safety mechanism that keeps the hand pruners shut. The pruners will now be open. You should then remove the spring. This can be done by sliding the spring in on itself to remove it from one hook. Then unhooking the other end.

We've included a replacement blade with your product for this very reason.

We couldn't just give you the blade and let you get on with it. That's not us. So we've written this section to show you the easiest and most effective way to replace your blade.

STEP 3: UNSCREW AND REMOVE

You'll need a suitable screwdriver to help you disassemble your shears. Use it to unscrew the centre nut by turning it anticlockwise. Remove the centre nut from the bolt and separate the two handles.

STEP 4: REMOVE AND REPLACE

TOP BLADE

You'll find this blade in the top blade holder. Remove it. Clean the blade holder and place a new blade in it. Aligning it with the pins. You only need to replace the pins if they have been damaged.

ANVIL-BLADE

You'll need to unscrew two screws to get to this blade. Use your screwdriver

You'll find a one page version of this section, included with your Alpha Six Pruning Shears.

Right, let's get started.

again and spin it anti clockwise. Then separate the anvil-blade from its holder and clean the holder. Place a new blade into the fitting and fasten it in with the two previous screws.

STEP 5: REASSEMBLY

To reassemble the shears, insert the centre bolt into the bottom handle. Then set the top handle in place and tighten the centre nut by hand. Turn it clockwise until you can no longer tighten it any further. Use a wrench to tighten it fully.

STEP 6: LOCK

Insert the toothed segment on top of the centre nut and use the segment screw to lock it. Then refit the spring in the same way you detached it.

HOW TO SHARPEN YOUR SHEARS

Sharpening the blade of your Alpha Six Pruning Shears is not only good for

the plants, it's good for you too. With a sharper blade you won't have to put as much effort in when you prune. Thicker branches are easier to cut. You'll even end up creating much smoother cuts.

And clean cuts heal a lot quicker than rough cuts made with a dull blade. Hence, your plants will be healthier and will be able to fight off disease and insect infestation at a much higher rate.

👉 STEP 1: CLEAN

Before you sharpen the blade on your Alpha Six Pruning Shears you should clean them. The amount of cleaning you have to do will depend on how dirty the blades are in the first place. Check out the cleaning section of this chapter above to determine which products and techniques you should use.

👉 STEP 2: WHICH FILE TO USE

Now you want to locate the bevel on the top blade. This is the section you'll be sharpening.

There are many types of files you could use but we suggest you use a diamond-coated flat file. It'll last you a whole lifetime so you won't have to replace it. Saving you time and money. You should lubricate this file before you

use it. All you need to do this is water. It remains flat making filing a lot quicker than with other file types.

👉 STEP 3: SAFETY

Once you've grabbed your file you can begin to sharpen the blade. We suggest you hold the shears with the blades pointing away from you. Then use the file to grind against the bevel away from your body. Add water in between use to maintain lubrication throughout the filing process.

👉 STEP 4: FILE THE BEVEL

File evenly and take your time with it. The blade is only small so it shouldn't take too long. You also don't need to be too rough. It won't take much to sharpen the blade fully. To file effectively rest the blade flush against the bevel. This

will maintain the existing shape and give it a nice finish.

👉 STEP 5: DON'T FILE THE UNDERSIDE

You shouldn't need to file the underside of the blade. If you run your finger gently over it you should be able to feel its texture. Smooth undersides require no action. If it's rough though you can run the file lightly over it to smoothen it out. Remember only do this lightly. You'll want to keep the underside of the blade flat to ensure the blades cut cleanly when they cross each other.

And that's it. Job done.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

There are a few other things you do to maintain your hand pruners. Little things that could really help to extend their lifespan. These tips will literally take no time at all.

Regularly check the pivot joint

If your shears start to not make clean cuts the first thing you should do is check the pivot joint. This is the joint from which the shears rotate around. You'll find it in the center. It may have loosened over time. Nothing to worry about though. Tighten it to restore it with an adjustable wrench.

You may have to replace the bolt and nut if they have been stripped out and you have trouble tightening the pivot joint.



Buff away rust

If you see rust appearing on your shears don't panic. You can use steel wool or a wire brush to buff away any rust spots. Try to catch it early though. Minimal damage is a lot easier to get rid of than severe damage that may be irreparable. Consider changing your cleaning routine too. It's easy to maintain your shears with our recommendations so try them out.



CHAPTER 5: WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

There are literally hundreds and hundreds of websites all across the internet about pruning and pruning shears. To make life easy for you, we've done

all the hard work. We've gone through a large portion of them to find the best ones. These sites will expand on what we've already told you. So you can in-

crease your knowledge further if you want to. We'll try and show you at least one site per area covered in this eBook. So let's get started.

The Importance of Pruning

<https://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/pruning/reasons.html>

Pruning Do's and Don'ts

https://www.greening.gov.hk/filemanager/content/pdf/tree_care/factsheet_e.pdf

Top Pruning Methods

<http://gardening.about.com/od/gardenprimer/ss/GardenMaint.htm>

How to Make the Best Cut

https://www.greening.gov.hk/filemanager/content/pdf/tree_care/factsheet_e.pdf

Pruning Tips and Techniques

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/general-pruning-techniques>

OTHER RESOURCES



You should also check out our blog:



And our Facebook Page too:

Plant Types

Bryophytes

<http://www.theplantlist.org/browse/B/>

Pteridophytes

<http://www.theplantlist.org/browse/P/>

Gymnosperms

<http://www.theplantlist.org/browse/G/>

Angiosperms

<http://www.theplantlist.org/browse/A/>

What to Prune When

<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/trees-shrubs-vines/care/what-to-prune-when/>

Plants Prone to Bleeding

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=325>

How to Keep Your Pruners Clean

<http://www.rose.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Carole-Mainwaring-Cleaning-Pruners.pdf>

How to Replace the Blades

<http://motherhood.modernmom.com/replace-blades-pruning-shears-13315.html>

How to Sharpen Your Shears

<http://www.finegardening.com/sharpening-pruners>



THANKS FOR READING!

That brings us to the end of “Pruning The Right Way”.

We hope you’ve enjoyed reading this ebook and have learned some great tips and tricks that you can implement in your own garden. Have fun using your **Alpha Six Pruning Shears**. We’re sure that after reading this eBook you’ll really be able to make the most out of them.

Happy Pruning!