

Philippe Gallandat presents:



Swiss Gardens

*L'artisan du beau jardin*

An old-world approach to the art of distinctive garden design, expert pruning and horticultural advice

CLEAR, SIMPLE, SUSTAINABLE AND FEARLESS PRUNING

(Pruning is not shearing)

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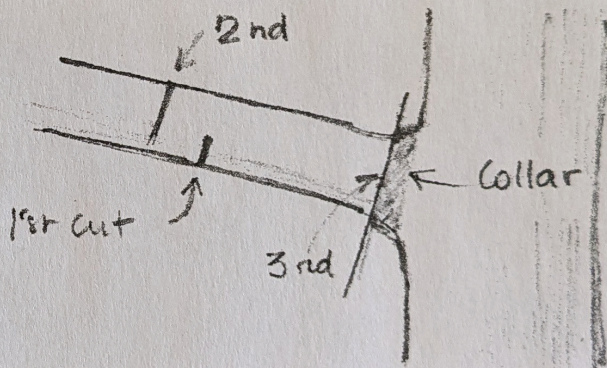
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**TOOLS:** \*Sharp, disinfected (3p Isopropyl alcohol to 2p water). \* Bypass pruners and loppers make cleaner, better cut. \* Anvil are powerful and good for clean-ups. \*Prefer use of a good pruning saw for largers cuts instead of loppers. \* Pole saws save limbs (yours). \*Shears are not pruning tools.

**HOW:** \*Assess situation and what you wish to obtain. \*Take your time, breathe, observe \*Be mindful of the harmony, natural shape and balance. \*Promote good air circulation. \*First, remove rubbing, crossing branches, \*waterspouts, \*dead, broken and diseased branches, \*branches that grow inward, \*older branches, usually grayer, darker, with a more mature bark. \* Cut just above a bud facing the direction you want the branche to extend to. \*About ¼ of an inch is a generally good distance above the bud. ( ¾ inch for grape vine and hydrangea). \* Cut branches at crotches, or junctions when ever possible, \*being careful not to remove the growth collar. This is very important to promote good healing. \* Remember that action=reaction, the more you prune, the more you will have to.

For larger branches, use the 3 cut system:



**GENERAL TIPS:** \* Vertical branches will grow faster than horizontal ones. \* Vertical position promotes wood, horizontal promotes flowers and fruit. \*The branches never change position on a trunk, they only grow from the tip and increase their diameter. \* Remove branches not in a good place -too close together, too sharp an angle to the trunk, too close to the ground or obstacle- as soon as doable to promote good healing. \* Small cuts are faster healed than large ones. \* Use of dressings (sealers) not necessary.

**TIMING\*** No pruning of oaks in April, May, June (Oak Wilt). Use paint to mask smell of fresh cut if you must remove a limb or two. \*In general, pruning in winter (dormant), promotes a vigorous response with more wood growth. \* In general, summer pruning produces a weaker response and less wood. \* Prune spring flowering shrubs soon after bloom ends. \*Prune summer flowering shrubs in winter (dormant). \* Rejuvenate older shrubs -Privet, Cotoneaster hedge, Spireas- by cutting entire bush to 6-12 inches from the ground in early winter if possible, but imperatively before budding out!