



General Pruning Tips

Prune....

- only with a sharp pair of secateurs
- only with clean secateurs- use metho (70% with 30% water) / bleach. Clean every 30 minutes or between each tree, and after *each* cut on a diseased tree
- decide how high you want the tree to be (think safety and ladders) and the general shape you want
- out diseased, damaged, dead, downward pointing and distorted branches (the 5 d's). Remove rubbing branches. Open out the centre to allow more light and air to penetrate
- on an established tree, cut back at maximum $\frac{1}{4}$ each year
- after fruiting for next year's flowers
- in winter to improve the frame of the tree
- just below a bud to try to stimulate flowering for next season
- just above a bud to try to stimulate leaf growth for next season
- to an outward facing bud
- at a slant to help water run-off
- with the cutting blade of the bypass secateurs closest to the centre of the tree to limit the other blade from bruising the branch and slow down healing
- when rain is not expected for the next few days
- a branch just past the wrinkle as the wrinkle has healing properties- so no long stub, and
- check at the same time on the health of the tree: for any pests (especially aphids, borers, caterpillars); mulch; collar rot; damage from possums, rats, lawn mowers. Plan and act to improve the tree.

For specific advice on tree species refer to the CCF document, *Fruiting Wood/Pruning*.

For a good pruning site, <http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2010/08/18/2986131.htm>