

# ***Tame the Untamed Garden***

Prepared by:  
Etobicoke Master Gardeners



Etobicoke Master Gardeners  
[etobिकokemastergardeners.ca](http://etobिकokemastergardeners.ca)

Presented at:  
Humber Arboretum



Humber Arboretum  
[humber.ca/arboretum](http://humber.ca/arboretum)

# Master Gardeners of Ontario



**Etobicoke Master Gardeners**

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[CONTACT US](#)

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

[COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES](#)

## Etobicoke Master Gardeners

**Etobicoke Master Gardeners (EMG)** was formed in January 2005 and is meant to cover the west side of Toronto and take in those people who want to study for the Master Gardener (MG) designation.

Meetings are held at the [Montgomery Inn](#) on the fourth Wednesday of most months from 7 to 10 p.m.

EMG comprises 36 active members: 26 Master Gardeners (MG) and 10 Master Gardeners in Training (MGIT) who are in the process of studying for Master Gardener Certification. We welcome inquiries from enthusiastic and interested individuals wishing to learn more about joining our



# Humber Arboretum



A partnership of:



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# Taming the Untamed Garden

- ✓ Rejuvenate Your Garden
- ✓ Taking Stock & Keeping Records
- ✓ Garden Clean-Up
- ✓ Controlling Weeds
- ✓ Pruning Principles and Techniques
- ✓ What to Prune When
- ✓ The Right Plant in the Right Place
- ✓ Native Plants & Invasive
- ✓ The way to a healthy lawn



# How does this happen?

- ✓ Some plants take over the garden
- ✓ Weeds pop up
- ✓ Branches grow at odd angles
- ✓ Wrong plant chosen for the site
- ✓ Gardeners wear other "hats" and can't keep up



# Rejuvenate your Garden







# Rejuvenate your Garden

Many factors can cause your garden to become “untamed” or out of control, including:

- ✓ Light – changes in shade, exposure
- ✓ Irrigation – blocked by taller plants
- ✓ Insect Infestation and damage
- ✓ Diseases: wilt, powdery mildew
- ✓ Vegetation



# Taking Stock & Keeping Records





# Taking Stock



Consider the following:

- ✓ What is working?
- ✓ What is NOT working?
- ✓ What has changed?
- ✓ What can you fix?
- ✓ What is new to try/experiment?



# Find the bones of the garden

- ✓ the structure of the garden
- ✓ Elements that remain
- ✓ garden becomes solid and grounded in all seasons



# Keeping Records

- ✓ A Garden Journal – an important tool!
- ✓ Take photos NOW of the condition and state of your garden
- ✓ Keep an ongoing record of what is happening during the season
- ✓ Make notes
- ✓ Map It Out

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# Keep A Garden Journal



# Garden Clean-Up

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# Garden Clean-up:

- ✓ Encourage air circulation
- ✓ Pull away the 'sheets'
- ✓ Clean up and divide non-woody Perennials
- ✓ Remove overgrown Perennials
- ✓ Move or Transplant Shrubs and Perennials
- ✓ Dig out big weeds
- ✓ Prune and shape Perennials and Shrubs





# Garden Clean-Up: Dividing Perennials

- ✓ Consider dividing mature later-flowering perennials if necessary (overgrown clumps)
- ✓ Divide perennials after blooming completed

# Soil Health

- ✓ Empty your compost bins
- ✓ Top dress perennials
- ✓ Check soil ph.
  - ✓ if acidic, add lime
- ✓ Check Soil type: heavy clay
  - add sand/pumice/compost



# Controlling Weeds





# Controlling Weeds





# Common Weeds

- ✓ Dandelion, Purslane, Ragweed, Burdock, Crabgrass, Canada Thistle, Garlic Mustard





# Mulching

- ✓ Add mulch (or top up) to areas of exposed bare soil 3” max thickness
- ✓ Ensure mulch doesn't touch crowns of plants and/or stems and trunks of trees
- ✓ Mulch flower beds with compost or other organic materials
- ✓ Use leaves, and organic mulch
- ✓ Mulch open soil areas to minimize the spread of weeds

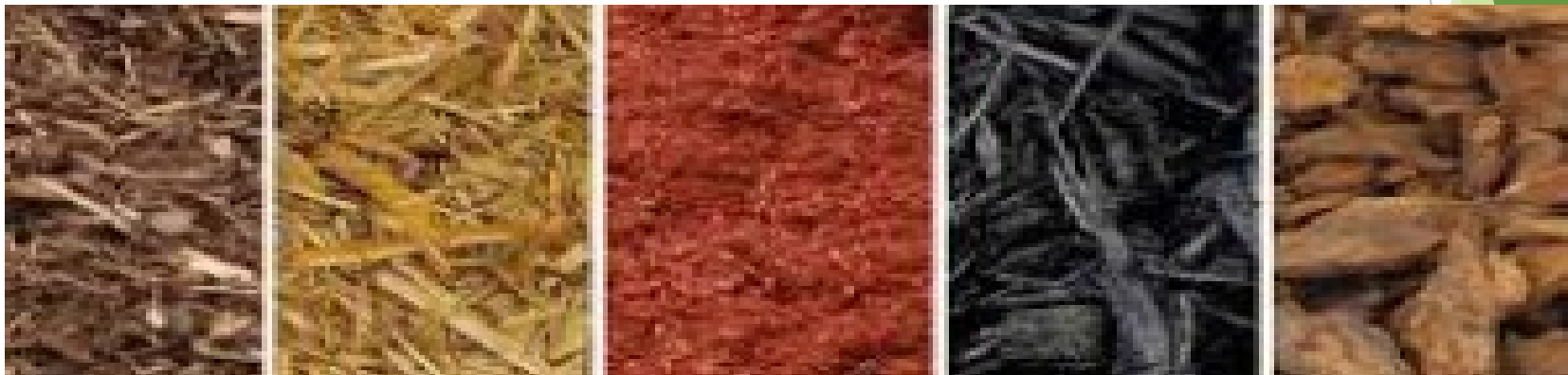






# Mulching

- ✓ Common mulch options include shredded bark, bark chips, and stone chips
- ✓ Carefully consider which mulches you choose



# Pruning Principles and Techniques



# Principles of Pruning

- ✓ Foundations of good pruning lie in two primary principles:
  1. Always assess the plant before making any cuts
  2. Never cut without good reason

# Principles of Pruning



rhr.org

## What to Prune?

### The 4 Ds:

- ✓ Dead
- ✓ Diseased
- ✓ Damaged
- ✓ Defective



# Importance of Pruning

- ✓ Maintain a healthy plant
- ✓ Control size, alter form & shape
- ✓ Improve quality/quantity of flowers, leaves or fruit
- ✓ To renew or rejuvenate old shrubs



# Pruning Techniques



# Pruning Techniques

- ✓ Clean, sharp tools
- ✓ Right cut - Right place - Right time
- ✓ Prune a stem when you want to:
  - ✓ strengthen it
  - ✓ encourage or prevent flower bud formation
  - ✓ cause branching

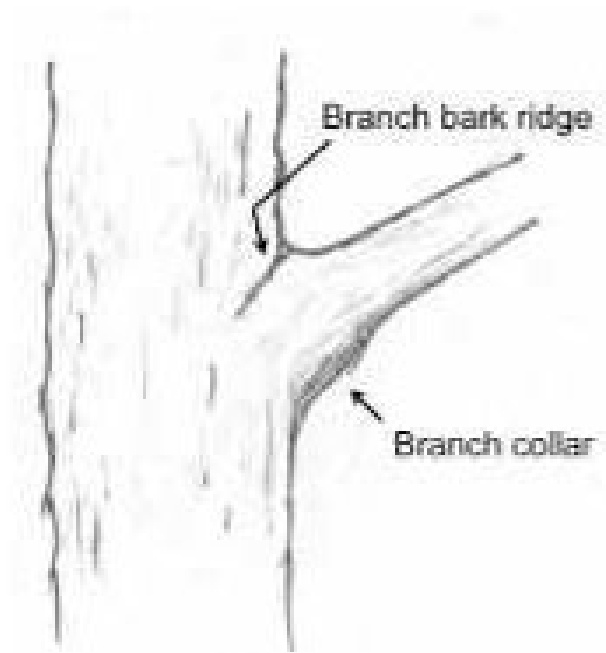
# Pruning Cuts



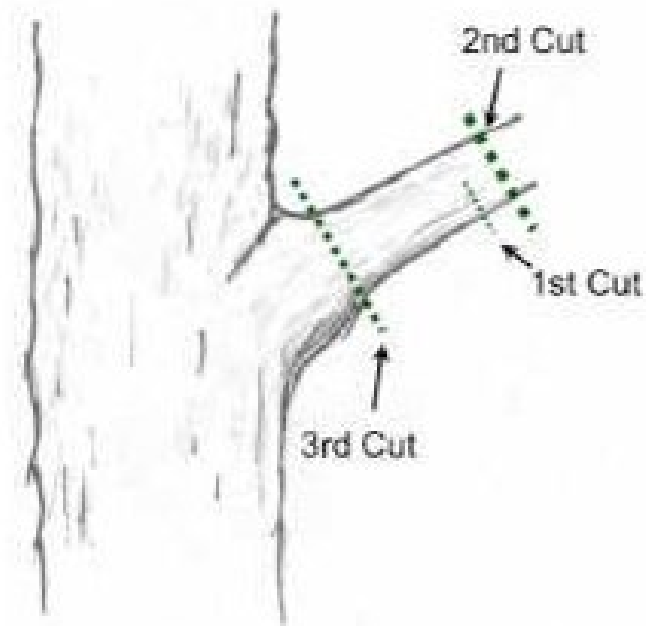




# Pruning Cuts



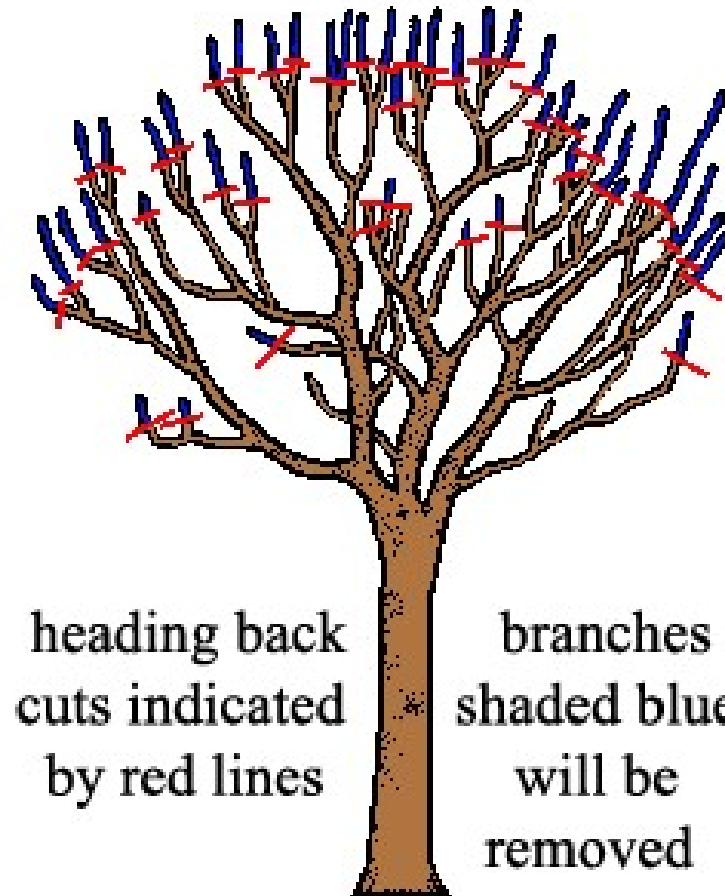
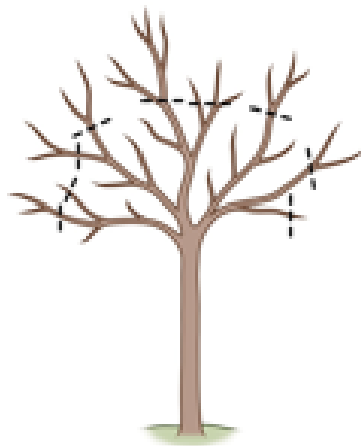
Branch Anatomy



How to Make the Proper Cut

# Pruning: Heading

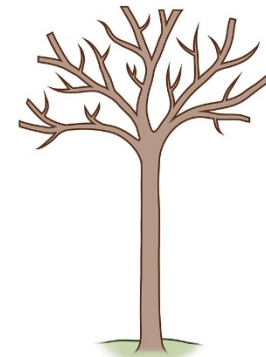
Before



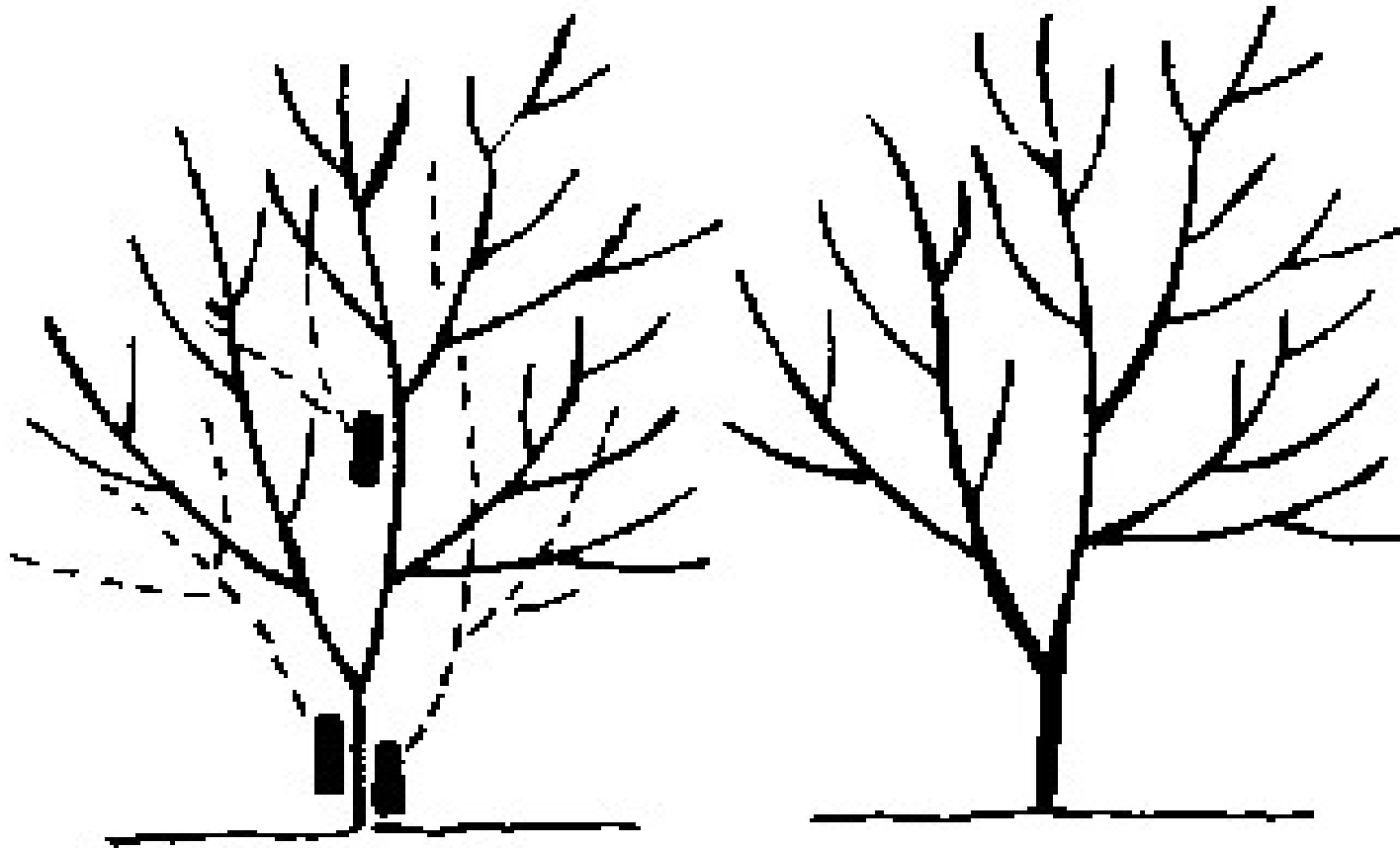
heading back  
cuts indicated  
by red lines

branches  
shaded blue  
will be  
removed

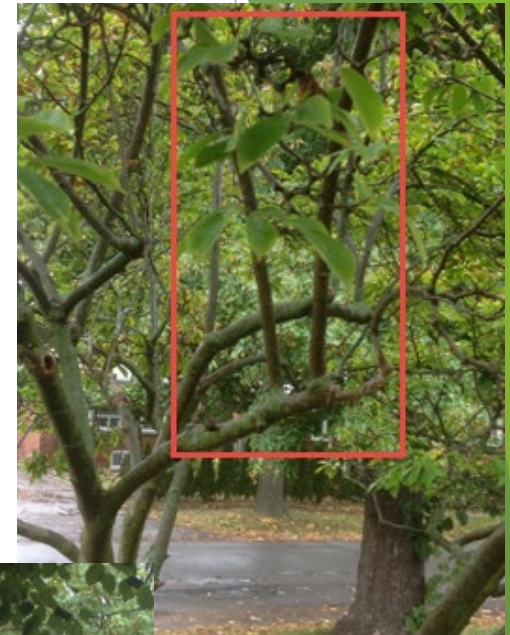
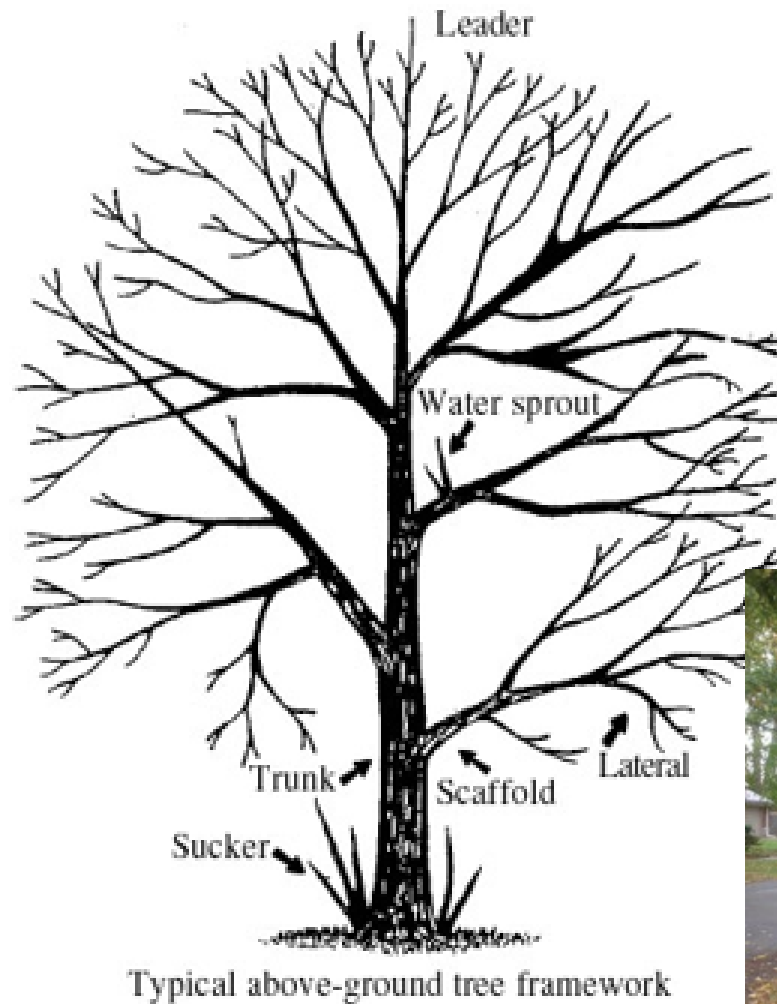
After



# Stem pruning - Thinning



# Pruning: Suckers & Water Sprouts





# What to Prune When



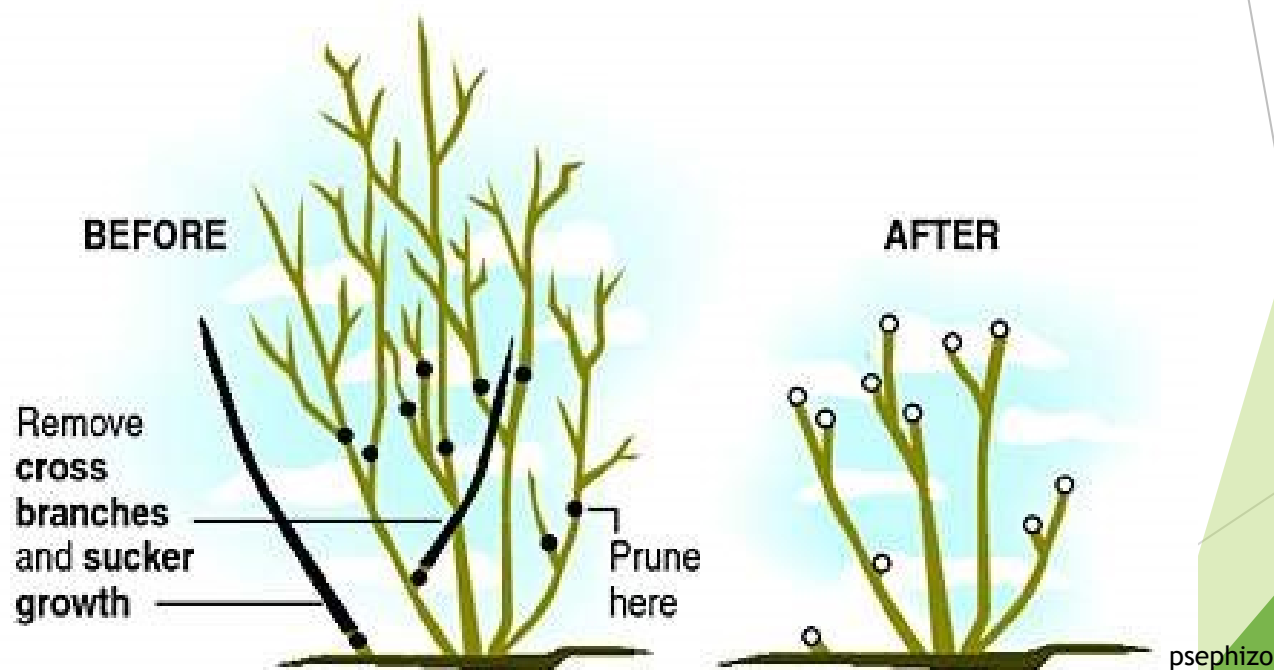
# Pruning: What to Prune When

- ✓ Woody perennials
- ✓ Roses
- ✓ Flowering shrubs
- ✓ Climbers
- ✓ Ornamental Trees
- ✓ Fruit trees
- ✓ Evergreens



# Pruning: Woody perennials

- ✓ Cut back in spring to encourage new flowering branches
- ✓ Prune in spring to limit winter damage





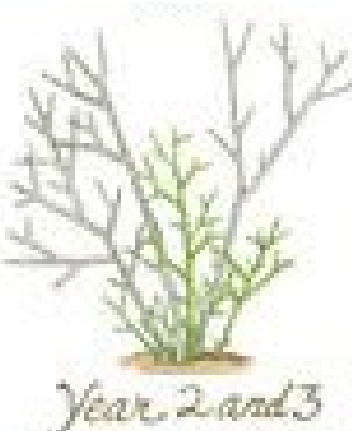
# Pruning: Woody Perennials



Remove one-third of the oldest branches from the base.



After pruning, light and air can reach the center of the plant



Remove another third of the old wood in each of the following years.



All the old wood has been removed to make room for vigorous new growth.

- ✓ To maintain vigorous growth
- ✓ Remove a third of the oldest stems from the base of the plant every year for 3 years

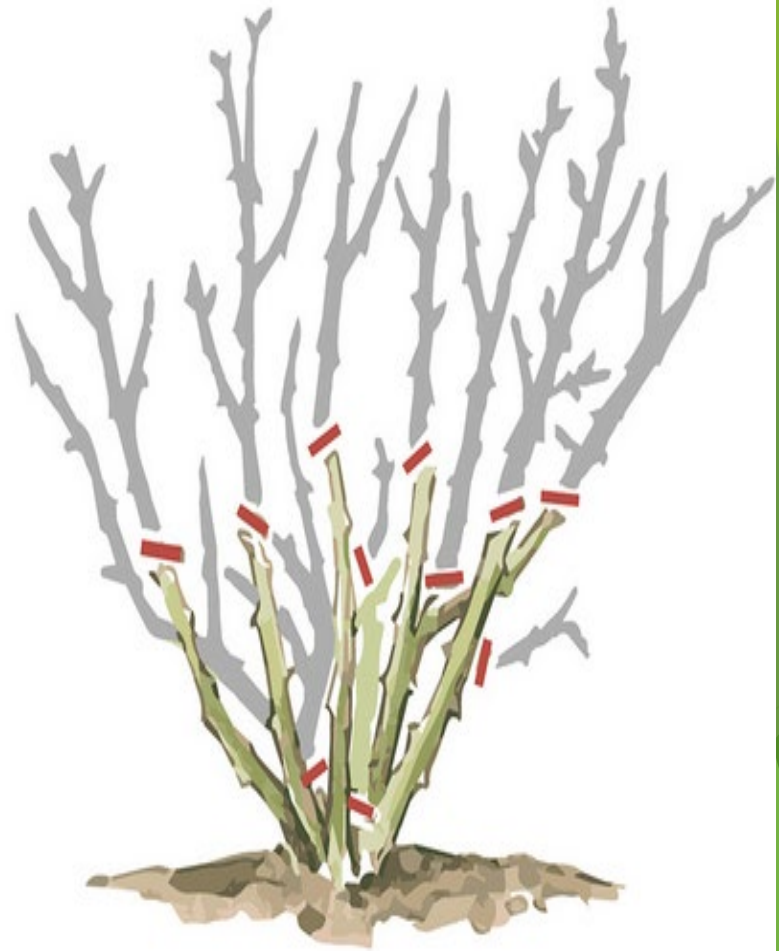


# Pruning: Hydrangeas







- ▶ Mop heads, Lace caps and Oak leaf: bloom on **OLD** wood: Prune before mid summer, **NOT** winter or early spring
- ▶ Reblooming (“Endless Summer”) timing not critical
- ▶ Paniculata (Pee Gee, Limelight) and Arborescens (Annabelle): bloom on **NEW** wood: Prune any time **EXCEPT** just before they bloom

# Pruning: Roses

- ✓ Remove winter protection
- ✓ Dig out standards or un-hill
- ✓ Don't prune until about April, to avoid winter damage



# Pruning: Roses

SPRING PRUNING		
		<b>Hard pruning</b> Stems are cut back to three or four buds from the base, leaving short, sturdy stems about five inches long. Recommended only for newly planted roses or to rejuvenate old or neglected shrubs.
		<b>Moderate pruning</b> Recommended stems are cut back to half their length. Weak stems are cut back further. Always cut to an outward-facing bud. Winter weather may have already killed the top half, so cut to the first live wood.
		<b>Light pruning</b> Stems are cut back by 1/3. Not recommended as it produces tall spindly plants with early but inferior blooms.





Winky Winky'  
Source: Bluebell nursery'



# Flowering Shrubs

## Prune...

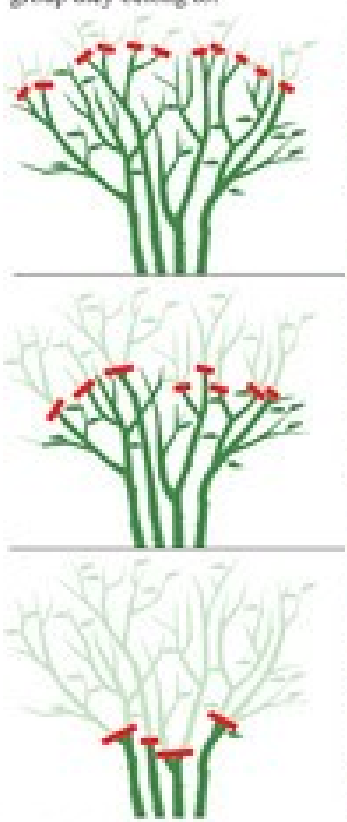
- ✓ summer & fall flowering trees/shrubs in the dormant season
- ✓ spring flowering trees/shrubs after their flowers fade

# Climbers

**GARDEN Hints and Tips**

## Clematis Pruning

Clematis are one of the most beautiful, versatile and, subsequently, popular additions to your garden. There are three methods of pruning clematis depending on which pruning group they belong to:



*C. macropetala* 'Wesselton'  
<https://rightplants4me.co.uk>

Source: Fine Gardening



*C. x Jackmanii* 'Niobe'  
<http://vanbloem.com>



*C. tangutica*  
<http://garden-photos-com.photoshelter.com>

# Pruning: Ornamental Trees

- ✓ Remember the 4Ds
- ✓ Remove competing or split leaders
- ✓ To keep compact cut back main leader



# Pruning: Fruit Trees

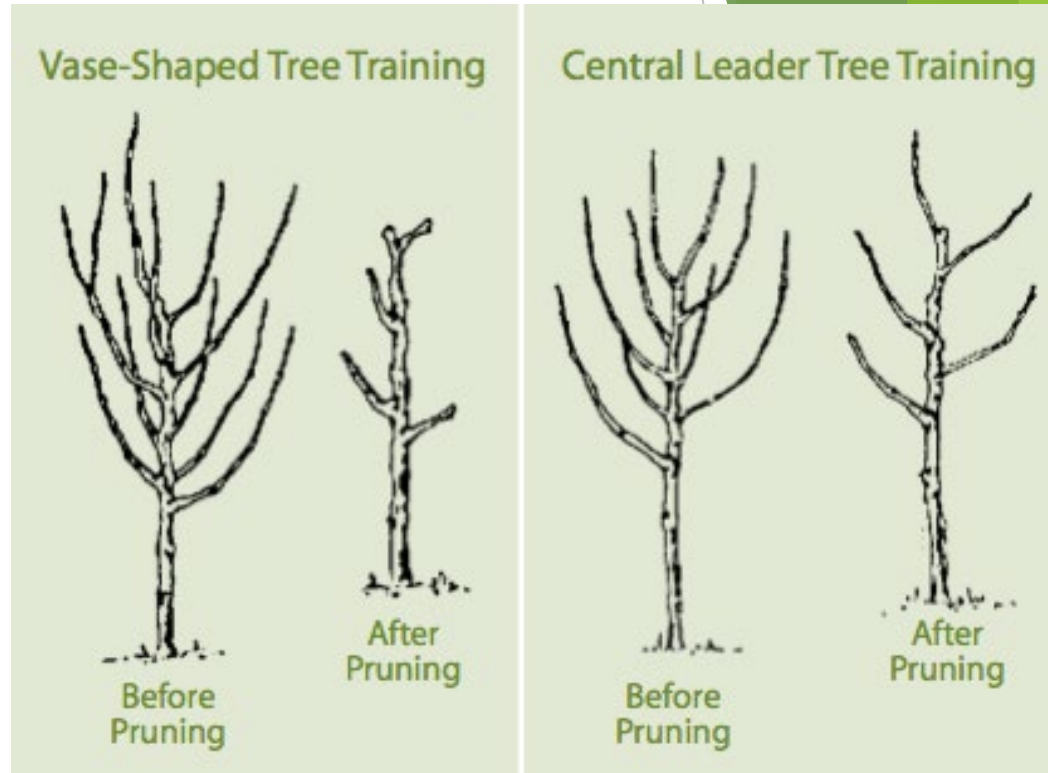
## Pruning:

- ✓ promotes flower/fruit production
- ✓ increases sunlight into the crown to help ripening



# Pruning: Fruit Trees

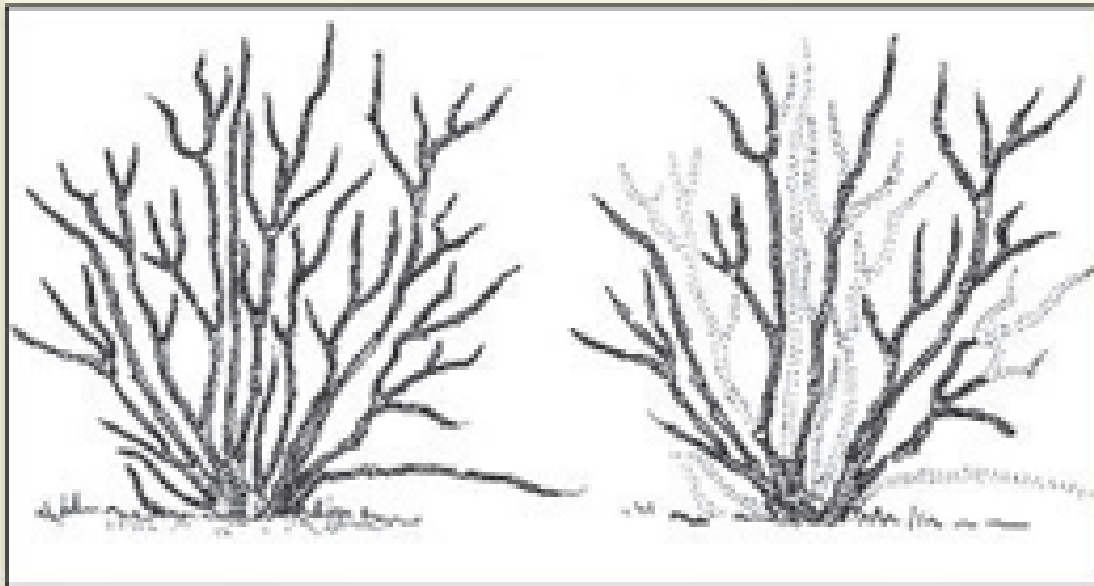
- ✓ Removes less productive growth
- ✓ Shapes the tree into a more efficient shape
- ✓ While they are dormant





# Pruning: Bushes

## Pruning Blueberries



Before and after



Quickcrop.co.uk

Source: <https://northcountypublicradio.org>



# Selecting Plants: The Right Plant in the Right Place

# Selecting Plants, the *Softscape*

- ✓ Choose the plants *before* you go to the nursery
- ✓ Base your selections on:
  - ✓ Hardiness
  - ✓ Maintenance level
  - ✓ Site conditions
  - ✓ Size
  - ✓ Garden style
  - ✓ Colour scheme
  - ✓ Multiple seasons of interest



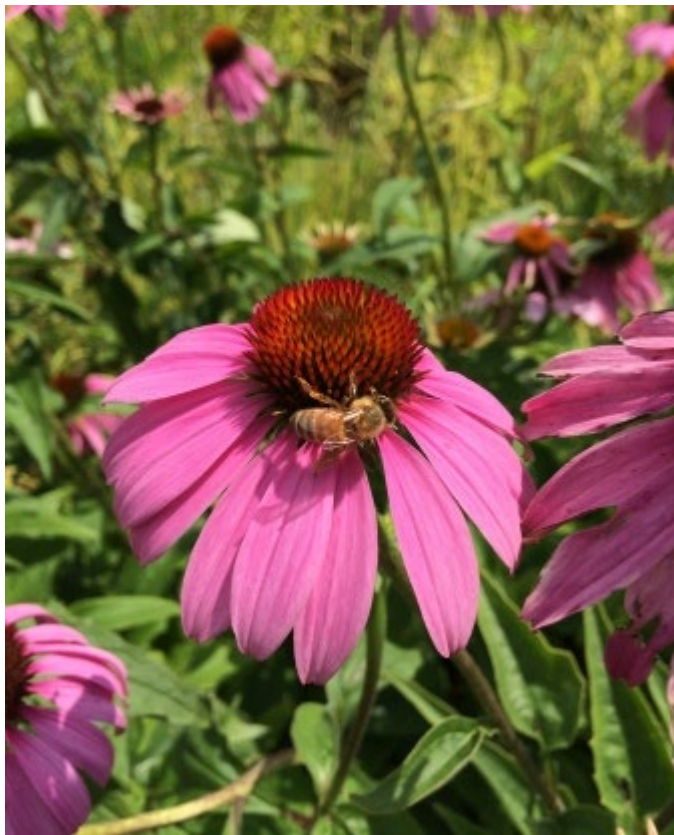
# Order of selection

- ✓ Trees
- ✓ Vines
- ✓ Shrubs
- ✓ Tall perennials
- ✓ Medium perennials
- ✓ Ground covers
- ✓ Annuals





# Natives and Invasive: What are they?







# What are Natives?

- ✓ This diverse group of plants evolved together with indigenous wildlife, adapting to local climate and soil conditions to create stable natural ecosystems





# Why Garden with Native Species?

- ✓ Crucial to restoring the natural ecosystem
- ✓ Easy to grow
- ✓ Reconnect yourself to nature

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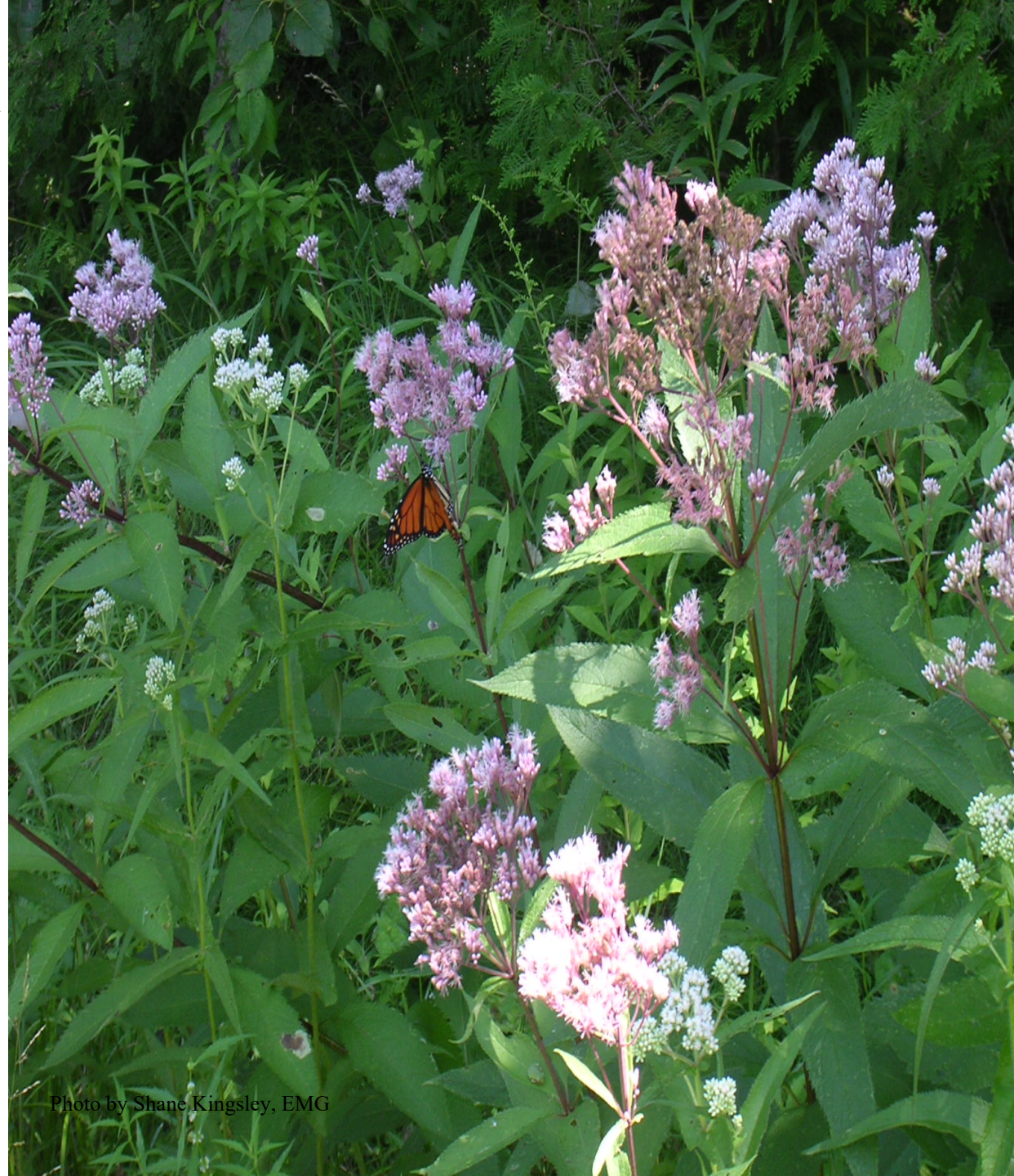


Photo by Shane Kingsley, EMG





# Benefits of Gardening with Natives

- ✓ Provides nectar, seeds and berries for birds
- ✓ Provides pollen for beneficial insects, like bees and butterflies

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Photo by: Shane Kingsley, EMG





# Benefits of Gardening with Natives

- ✓ Adapted to the local climate and growing conditions
- ✓ Can thrive with minimum attention and watering
- ✓ Adapted to local insects and soils
- ✓ Generally don't need fertilizers





# What makes a plant invasive?

- ✓ Alien species whose introduction or spread negatively impacts native biodiversity, the economy and/or society, including human health
- ✓ Invasive species have ‘displacement capacity’ and crowd out native plants
- ✓ Pose the greatest threat to biodiversity



*Dog-strangling vine (Vitotocicum rossicum)*



*Photo: Friends of Sam Smith Park*



# What makes a plant invasive?

Invasive

vs.

Prolific



# What makes a plant invasive?

- ✓ **Alien Species**  
(synonyms non-native, or exotic)
  - ✓ Plant, animals and micro-organisms that have been accidentally or deliberately introduced into areas beyond their native range.



# Common characteristics of invasive plants

- ✓ High annual seed production and quick establishment of dense colonies
- ✓ Tolerance to a wide range of growing conditions
- ✓ Ability to spread by underground roots and re-grow quickly when disturbed by pulling, cutting, or fire
- ✓ A lack of natural predators to keep their population under control in their new environment





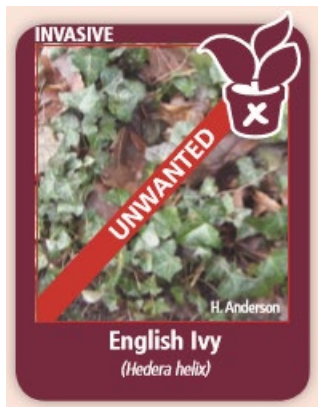
# What can I do about Invasive plants?

- ✓ Early detection
  - ✓ Learn to identify and manage invasive plants on your property
- ✓ Rapid Response
  - ✓ Best Management Practice varies by species
  - ✓ Biological control
- ✓ Prevention
  - ✓ of initial entry into Canada or Ontario
  - ✓ of the spread of a species



# Grow me instead!

- ✓ The Grow Me Instead guides identify potentially invasive garden plants and promote suitable alternatives that are either native or non-invasive





# Grow me instead!

- ✓ Copies of the Grow Me Instead booklet can be downloaded from
  - ✓ <http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/index.php/gardenersandhorticulturalists>
- ✓ Grow me instead samples include:

Invasive Plants	Non-Invasive Plant alternatives
Groundcovers English Ivy, Periwinkle, Goutweed	Wild Strawberry, Wild Ginger, Bearberry, Wild Geranium, Mayapple, Running Euonymus
Miscanthus	Switchgrass, Indian Grass
Norway Maple	Native Maples, Serviceberry, Hackberry
Japanese Honeysuckle Vine	Climbing Hydrangea, American Wisteria, Goldflame Honeysuckle
Non-native Honeysuckle Shrubs	Nannyberry, Ninebark, Fragrant Sumac



# The way to a healthy lawn

[www.myorganicguru.com](http://www.myorganicguru.com)

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[www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca](http://www.etobicokemastergardeners.ca)

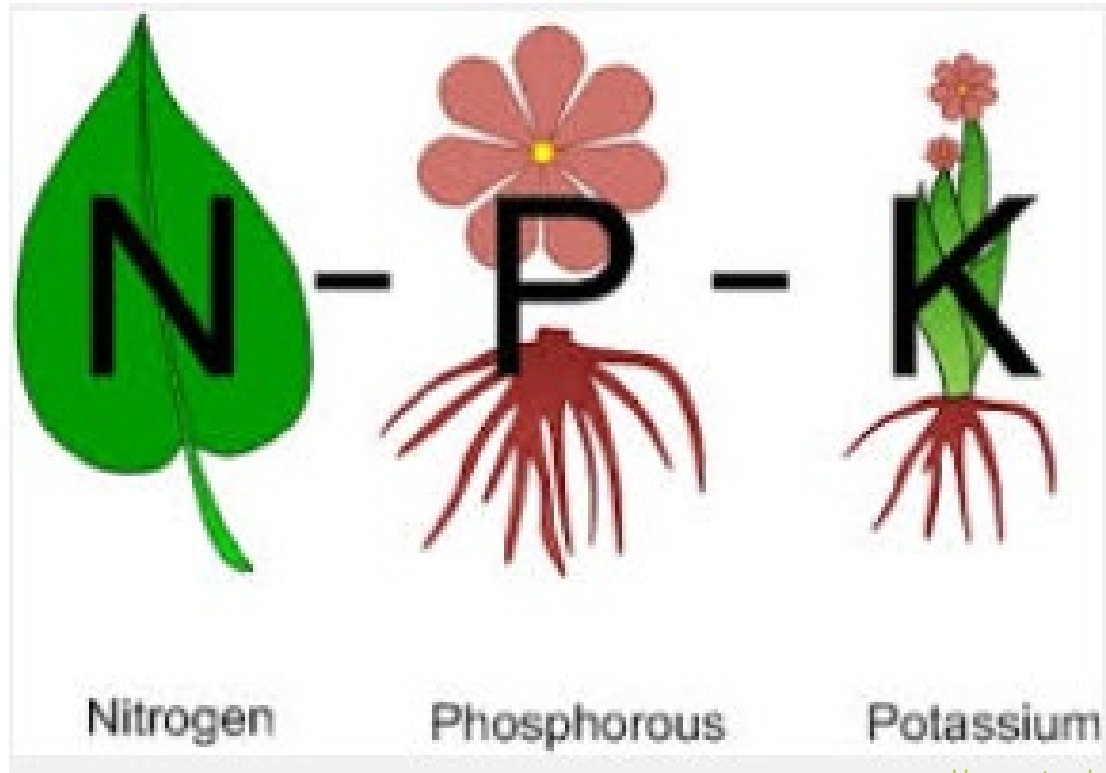
# Prepare your lawn

- ✓ Rake the lawn to remove dead growth  
Aerate/dethatch if needed
- ✓ Cut grass long (2 1/2 inches)
- ✓ Leave clippings on, water deeply and less frequently  
(1 inch of water per week)
- ✓ Re-seed bare patches of lawn



# Prepare your lawn

- ✓ If you fertilize use composted manure or a balanced organic slow-release fertilizer



[blog.greatgardensupply.com](http://blog.greatgardensupply.com)

# The finishing touch - Edging

- ✓ Reshape garden edges, and trim grass along edges
- ✓ A clean edge improves the overall appearance
- ✓ Create ditch edges or a mowing strip along the edge





# Upcoming Workshop: Dream, Design, Dig!

✓ November 16, 2019 at 10:00 am – 12:00 noon





# Etobicoke Master Gardeners

## Thank you!

## Questions

