

# SAVE TIME AND LOOK GREAT WITH INFORMAL PRUNING

*Did you know there's more than one way to prune your landscape material? Depending on your vision of the perfect landscape, you may be able to keep it looking great with minimal pruning and maintenance through a technique known as informal pruning.*

## What is informal pruning?

Informal pruning is the process of thinning your trees or shrubs as necessary to maintain their natural shape. This is a common technique used by landscapers when they want to emphasize the plant's branches, limbs, or general outline.

In comparison formal pruning, or shearing, is typically what you see when go to botanical gardens and the hedges are shaped in a specific way and resemble balls, cones, boxes, and other shapes.



## What benefits does informal pruning offer?

Informal pruning is perfect for homeowners or business owners who prefer low maintenance landscapes. Once an informal hedge is established, limited pruning is needed and is primarily only necessary following flowering to limit height or spread.

## What makes the best informal hedge?

There are specific types of plants that take informal pruning best, and popular options for Pennsylvania include:

Abelia, azalea, camellia, flax, hibiscus, lavender, nandina, rose, viburnum



## How do I perform an informal pruning?

Consider the plant's natural shape and lightly trim away any excess or misshapen foliage. Work from the inside of the plant to remove dead and broken branches. Move slowly and err on the side of caution as you can always take more off, but it's impossible to put trimmings back on! Follow the trimming with a gentle brushing over of the entire plant to knock off any loose trimmings. This can help you determine whether or not further trimming is required.



*If you're unsure which pruning method is best for your landscape material and would prefer to leave the pruning to the experts, give Hively a call at 717-292-5696 and we'll be happy to help!*

