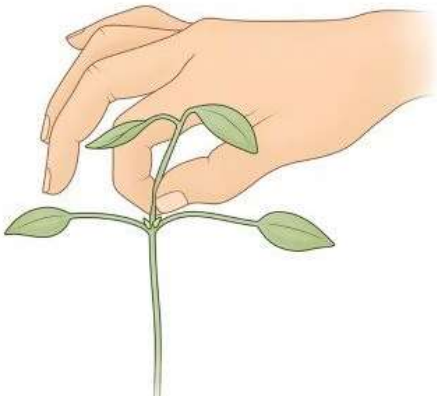


LM 4 types of Pruning

Pinching

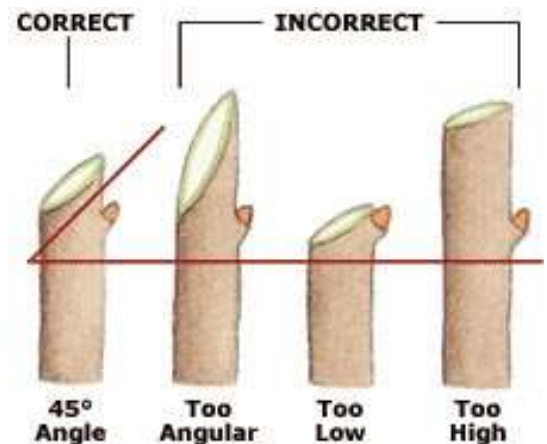
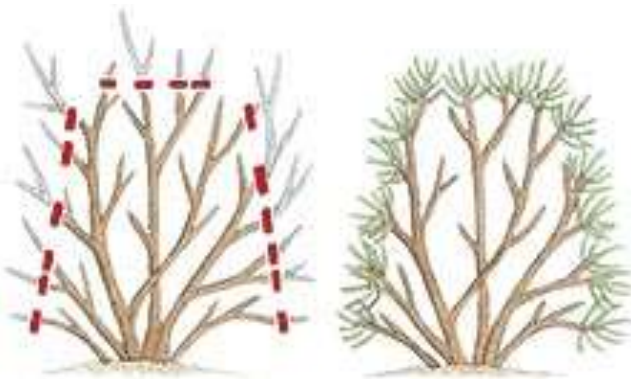
The term “pinching” comes from the fact that gardeners actually use their fingers (and fingernails if they have them) to pinch off the tender, new growth at the end of the stem. You can also use a sharp pair of pruning shears to pinch the ends. Ideally, you want to pinch the stem as close to above the leaf nodes as possible.

Pinching stops the stem from elongating and encourages bushy growth. It is typically done on annual and perennial flowers and on some vegetables; it’s also effective for directing growth on small-leafed shrubs to give the plant an even shape.



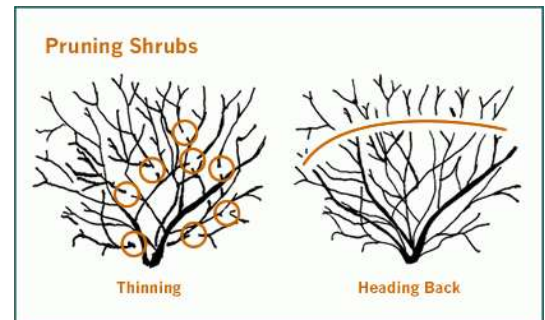
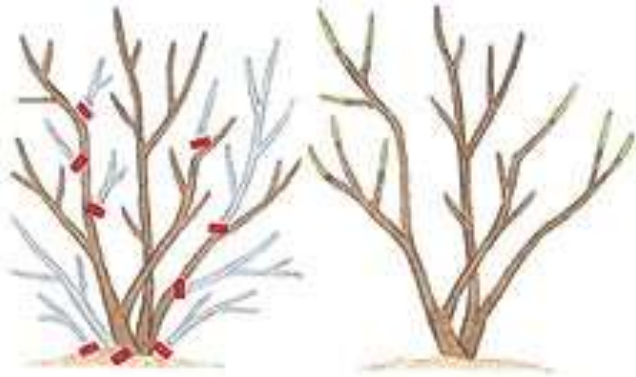
Heading

For heading, you cut farther back on the shoot than you would for pinching. Usually done with hand-held pruners, heading stimulates the buds just below the cut, encouraging dense growth. Heading is a more aggressive approach than pinching when you’re shaping certain small shrubs and flowering perennials.



Thinning

A more drastic form of pruning, a thinning out cut is the removal of an entire shoot, limb, or branch at its point of origin. **A common mistake is to make a heading cut when what's needed is a thinning cut.** Use hand-held pruners, loppers, or a pruning saw to make thinning cuts, depending on the thickness of the member being cut. This method is commonly used on roses and for renewing shrubs.



Shearing

Shearing, is used to create a hedge or a bush with spherical or square form, is a form of heading that makes no attempt to cut back to a bud. Shearing stimulates many buds to produce new growth, so you'll be repeating the job regularly once you start. Since this method cuts right through leaves, its best done on small-leaved plants, where damage is less noticeable.

