



AGRI MAGAZINE

(International E-Magazine for Agricultural Articles)

Volume: 03, Issue: 03 (March, 2026)

Available online at <http://www.agrimagazine.in>

© Agri Magazine, ISSN: 3048-8656

Different Methods of Pruning in Horticultural Crops

*Dr. P. Pedda Nagi Reddy

Assistant Professor, Department of Horticulture,
ANGRAU- S V Agricultural College, Tirupati, India

*Corresponding Author's email: p.peddanagerreddy@angrau.ac.in

Judicious removal of plant part to obtain better and qualitative yield is termed as pruning. Pruning is started in later part of plant life. When it becomes capable to produce flowers and fruits.

Objectives of pruning

1. To control flowering and fruiting.
2. To augment production in plants, which bear on new shoots.
3. To obtain regular bearing.
4. To remove diseased, damaged, insect infested and weak shoots.
5. To thin out flowers and fruits.
6. To ensure access to sunlight to bearing shoots.
7. To have a balance between vegetative and reproductive growth.

Principles of pruning

1. Remove water sprout.
2. To remove a shoot completely. It should be removed from the base.
3. Avoid bark injury while pruning. To do so, the branches of bigger diameter should be cut from downward surface.
4. Pruning should be completed well in advance of flowering season.
5. In deciduous plants, pruning should be done in advance of venture, so that low temperature injury may be minimized.
6. Apply Bordeaux paste after pruning to avoid incidents of diseases.
7. Crowded, interlace rating, diseased, damaged and insect infested suit should be removed.

Methods of pruning

1. **Heading back:** Removal of terminal portion of shoot, leaving basal portion intact is termed as heading back.
2. **Thinning out:** Selective and complete removal of part of the plant from base is termed as thinning.
3. **Pinching:** Removal of terminal growing point in herbaceous plants to induce more laterals or side shoots production and to reduce the height of the plant is known as pinching.
4. **Disbudding:** Removal of unwanted flowerbeds in a cluster so as to encourage the remaining buds to develop into a large, showy, quality bloom is called as disbudding.
5. **Deblossoming or thinning:** Removal of excess flowers or fruits is known as thinning.
6. **Ringing or girdling:** In this process, a circular ring of bark measuring about 3 cm in length is removed. It hastens bearing by allowing greater accumulation of photosynthates in upward portion of the plant.
7. **Notching:** Making a notch above a bud by removing a wedge-shaped piece of bark is termed as notching. It checks the influence of hormone and encourages growth.

8. **Nicking:** Making a notch below a bud by removing a wedge-shaped piece of bark is termed as nicking. This ensures accumulation of carbohydrates from the leaves to the bud and may result in the formation of fruit bud.
9. **Coppicing:** Practice of complete removal of the trunk in trees like Eucalyptus and Cinchona, leaving 30 to 35 cm stump alone is called as. It is done to encourage the three to produce new growth on a regular basis to maintain a supply of new wood for various purposes, particularly for fuel.
10. **Pollarding:** Practice of cutting back of the shoots indiscriminately to reduce the height of the tree in order to encourage side branches is called as pollarding. It helps in regulating size and shape of a tree or woody shrub.
11. **Lopping:** Practice of reducing the canopy cover in shade trees in order to permit more light is known as lopping.