



Staff photo by Kelly James

Gauze is in

Gauze will dominate women's and tie. Her half-circle clounce skirt fashions this spring, according to Gresham clothing stores. Kristy Coombs wears a dress of natural, printed gauze with a split shoulder Stone's Key to Fashion.

Prune just before the blooming

Ornamental shrubs and trees can be pruned anytime of the year, but pruning them just before their respective blooming periods usually yields the best results.

"Since many ornamentals are selected on the basis of their flowers or berries, the blooming period is a good guide to when the plant should be pruned," says Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent.

Shade trees and summer blooming shrubs should be pruned in the dormant season before growth starts. Some shrubs that should be pruned in February or early March include hydrangea, roses, butterfly bush, clematis, firethorn, holly, hawthorne and flowering crabapple.

Pruning these ornamentals now will cause vigorous growth in the spring and promote blooming.

On the other hand, shrubs that bloom in the spring should not be pruned until after their flowering period. These include camellias, deutzia, forsythia, lilac, moonlight broom and flowering plum.

"When pruning, first cut out dead, diseased, injured, weak and twiggy growth," advises McNeilan. Next remove shoots or twigs that are growing in the wrong direction, getting out of bounds, or crowding and crossing other limbs.

Finally, finish the job by thinning out where necessary for even spacing of branches, ease of spraying and to maintain moderate growth.

Roses are a special case. They may need a light, medium or heavy pruning. In all cases, the old canes and crossing growth should be removed.

For light pruning, remove about one-third of last year's

growth. That will leave the remaining canes about two and one-half to four feet high. Light pruning is best for rambling and climbing types of roses.

With moderate pruning, cut the canes back to about half their length. Weaker canes should be cut back even more. The canes that remain should be 18 inches to two feet high.

Heavy pruning is recommended for bush-type roses and hybrid teas. Cut the canes back to within six to eight inches of the ground. Heavy pruning keeps the new wood close to the ground so the bush does not become leggy. It also keeps the flowers near the ground.

Pruning prevents shrubs from becoming overgrown and formless. It also keeps plants healthy by removing dead, diseased or injured wood and improves air circulation around the plant.

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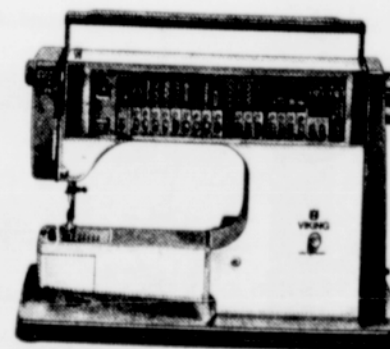
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