

Pruning and Trimming Houseplants

Why Prune:

Remove Dead or Diseased Parts:

- **Promote Health:** Pruning helps eliminate unhealthy parts of the plant, preventing the spread of disease and promoting new growth. Regular removal of dead or damaged leaves ensures that the plant's energy is directed towards healthy growth.

Shape and Size Control:

- **Manage Shape:** Pruning helps manage the plant's shape and size, ensuring it stays aesthetically pleasing and fits its designated space. This is especially important for plants in small spaces or decorative arrangements.

Improves Air Circulation:

- **Reduce Fungal Infections:** By removing excess growth, pruning enhances air circulation around the plant, reducing the risk of fungal infections. Improved air circulation also helps the plant dry out more quickly after watering, which can prevent mold and mildew.

How to Prune:

Tools Needed:

Sharp Scissors or Pruning Shears:

- **Clean and Sharp:** Ensure tools are clean and sharp to make precise cuts and reduce plant damage. Sterilize tools before use to prevent the spread of diseases.

Techniques:

Cut Just Above a Leaf Node or Stem Junction:

- **Encourage New Growth:** This technique encourages new growth from the cut area. It helps the plant develop a fuller, bushier appearance.

Pinching:

- **Promote Bushier Growth:** For plants like herbs and some houseplants, pinching off the tips can promote bushier growth. This technique involves using your fingers to remove the growing tips of the plant.

Deadheading:

- **Encourage More Blooms:** Remove spent flowers to encourage more blooms and prevent seed formation. Deadheading redirects the plant's energy from seed production to producing more flowers, extending the blooming period.