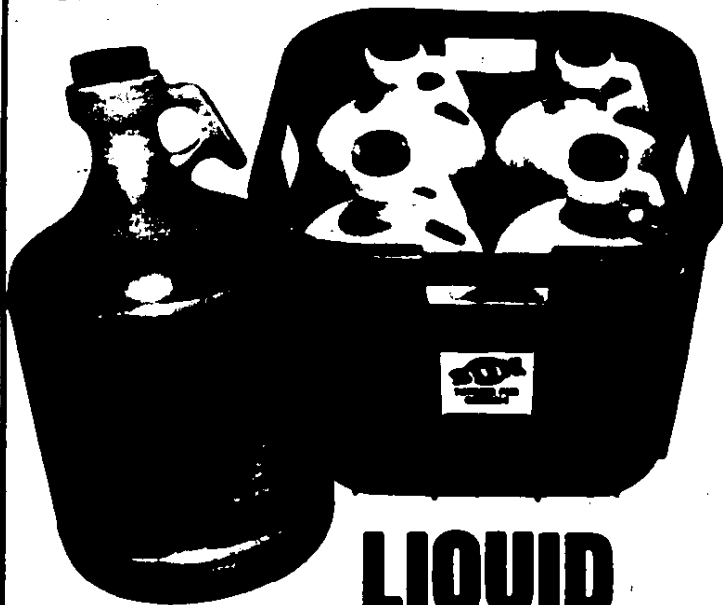
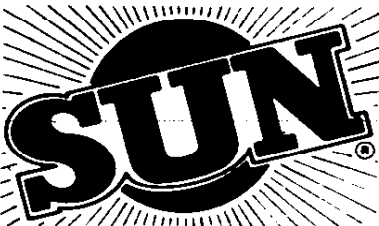


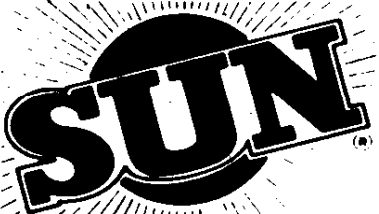
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## Spur new growth with good pruning.

The National Arborist Association recommends that shrubs be "thinned" by removing about one-third of the old stems each year, allowing new stems to take their place.

All too often shrubs are merely sheared at some convenient level. Unfortunately, this produces what all "heading does" does, a bushy topped shrub with bare lower branches. Since many shrubs are grown mainly for their beauty in flower, the time of pruning should be immediately after flowering.

This will allow time for the setting of flower buds for next season's bloom.

Spring flowering shrubs should be pruned in the spring when flowering is completed, and fall flowering shrubs similarly in the fall. However, the pruning of the fall varieties may be delayed until the dormant season, if necessary.

Evergreens are best pruned in late winter or early spring. Branches which are to be shortened in the needled varieties such as pine, spruce, fir and sequoia should be pruned back to a side branch of bud if one is present, or removed entirely if neither exists.

In general these species do not respond well to shearing unless it is done in mid to late spring while the plant is actively growing.

During this period new growth may be cut or sheared without seriously damaging the shrub. Cutting the new growth, or candle as it is often called, while it is soft and succulent will encourage the growth of new buds and thus new branches.

Flowering evergreens such as azalea, rhododendron and laurel should be pruned immediately after the blossoms have dried up. Pruning before will eliminate this year's flowers and pruning too late will reduce flowering next year.

The panicked varieties such as arborvitae, cyprptomeria, hemlock, juniper, cedar and yew may

be pruned or sheared at any time.

However, best results are obtained if pruning is done in late winter or early spring since new growth in the spring will soon cover the pruning wounds.

Sculptured evergreen shrubs shaped into balls, cubes, animals, birds or other forms have a charm when grouped together in the topiary garden of an arboretum but look strange and out of place in the home garden.

Bear in mind that the greater part of topiary work is done by wiring, and by a full-time staff of professional gardeners.

Hedges are maintained to provide a more or less formal appearance. The more formal the hedge, the more care it requires. Informal hedges may only need pruning once a year but formal hedges respond best to frequent shearing which removes very little growth each time.

Pruning must be started when the hedge is only six to ten inches high. Heading is the correct procedure for hedges since it causes considerable branching and the dense growth so desirable.

After the initial heading, the next branches should be headed at six to eight inch intervals until the desired height is reached.

Then, shearing should be back to one lateral branch of the previous year's growth.

A mistake commonly seen in hedges is the shearing to a shape resembling an inverted pyramid or trapezoid. Sheared in this way, not enough light reaches the lower branches and they become weakened and die, leaving a bare base which defeats the purpose of the hedge.

A better approach is to prune so that the top is slightly narrower than the base.

Shrubs are valued for their natural look and the application of these simple pruning rules should keep them characteristically beautiful and happily growing within bounds for many years.