

Name :

Members of your team :

PRUNING FUN

While pruning may add new life to your plants or keep them in shape, the clippings are often bagged and thrown away. Here are some creative ways of re-using these biodegradables – you can help save the environment (by reducing waste) and create attractive products from nature!

Project Objectives

You have to:

1. Learn why plants need to be pruned and how to do it.
2. After pruning, use the clippings for one or two of the following:
 - Make plant pressings.
 - Make plant art (e.g. leaf prints on paper, bags, or imprinted in cement etc.).
 - Make compost.
 - Propagate new plants.

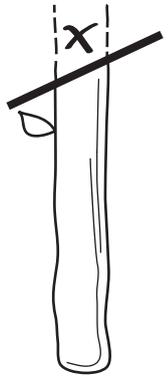
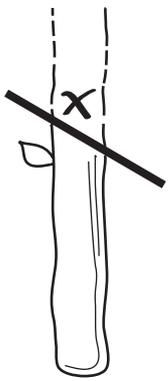
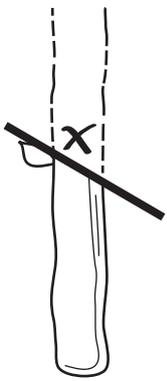
Be careful with the secateurs and shears. Watch out for plants with thorns!

Equipment/Materials

Gloves, secateurs (gardening scissors) and plastic bag.
Optional: Community In Bloom: A Concise Guide to Tropical Gardening.

Suggested Steps

- Wear gloves when pruning.
- Prune off dead and diseased parts of the plants first (for the latter, to prevent these from spreading to other plants).
- It is important to prune with the correct cut. This helps the plants to heal quickly and prevents rotting and fungal growth. See pages 35-36 of the Community In Bloom: A Concise Guide to Tropical Gardening.
- Collect plant clippings into a bag.

Right way to cut	Wrong ways to cut		
	 <p data-bbox="486 1881 774 2027">This cut slopes towards the bud. Rain or sap may collect at the bud and cause it to rot.</p>	 <p data-bbox="829 1881 1085 2027">This cut is made too far from the bud, an unsightly stub is left.</p>	 <p data-bbox="1149 1881 1404 2027">This cut is made too near the bud, which may damage the bud.</p>

TO MAKE PLANT PRESSING

You need: secateurs, newspaper, scissors, large books (e.g. phonebook), heavy weights (bricks), coloured paper, laminator and laminating film.

Preparation: Cut newspaper sheets to about A4 sizes.

1. After pruning, sort through the clippings and collect complete and undamaged plant parts (flowers and leaves).
2. To make the pressing: arrange the plant part on a piece of A4 sized newspaper. Gently press it down and cover it with another piece of newspaper. Place the pressing between the pages of a large phonebook. Have a few pressings in each phonebook. Place a heavy weight (brick) on the phonebook and keep it in a dry place for about 1-2 weeks.
3. After 1-2 weeks, check the pressings. Discard any plant pressing with fungal growth. Select the best plant pressings and proceed with the lamination.
4. Place selected pressings between the sheets of a laminating film or place them on a coloured paper.
5. Close the sheets of the laminating film and insert it through a pre-heated laminating machine. Cut the laminated plant pressings to the desired shapes. Add trimmings (e.g. ribbon for bookmarks) if needed.

TO MAKE COMPOST

You need: chankol/trowel and garden soil.

1. With a changkol/trowel, dig a shallow hole in the designated area, place weed plants into it.
2. Scatter soil over the plant parts. Add more weeds. Continue to alternate between the soil and weed layers, ending with a soil layer at the surface.
3. Water the compost pile and keep it moist.
4. Check on the compost pile once a week. The pile needs to be kept damp and turned (mix up bottom and top layers) once every 2-3 weeks, to improve aeration and hasten the composting process.
5. In 2-3 months, you can use the compost for plants in the school garden to improve soil condition.

TO MAKE PLANT CRAFT

You need: secateurs, cloth, T shirt, canvas bag or art paper, fabric paint for cloth, poster paint for paper, sponge or brushes and old newspapers.

1. After pruning, sort through the clippings and collect complete leaves (or fern fronds).
2. Select the leaf or fern and paint it with the appropriate paint using a brush or sponge.
3. Place the painted surface onto the cloth, bag, T-shirt or paper surface and press gently.
4. Carefully peel away the leaf or fern and let the painted surface dry. (some leaves only allow a single use).
5. Use the cloth to sew interesting products (e.g. pencil cases) or the paper to make bookmarks, gift wraps etc.

TO PROPAGATE PLANTS (for selected plants only)

You need: secateurs, spade or trowel and garden soil.

1. After pruning, collect seeds and long stems from the clippings. Only selected plants can be propagated by stem-cuttings (e.g. Japanese Rose, Dill, Basil, Bouganvillea).
2. Prepare the soil in the new plant bed. Plant the collected seeds in regular intervals (5-10cm apart for small seeds or stems, approx. 20cm apart for larger seeds and stems).
3. For stem cuttings, remove all leaves from the cutting and stick each stem at regular intervals into the soil, with the buds facing upwards.
4. Water the seeds or stem-cuttings.