Pruning Hedges

Today on Gardening in a Minute: pruning hedges.

How to properly prune your hedge depends on the type of hedge that you have.

Informal hedges consist of a row of closely planted shrubs which are allowed to develop into their natural shape. Annual pruning involves thinning and shaping just enough to maintain desired height and width.

Formal hedges have a hard outline of foliage from the top of the hedge to the ground. They should be clipped while the new growth is green and succulent and plants should be trimmed so the base of the hedge is wider than the top. Hedges pruned with a narrow base will lose lower leaves and branches because of lack of light.

Flowering hedges should be sheared after they have bloomed to prevent cutting off flower buds.

For more about pruning hedges, contact your county extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida's Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.