Sharpening Your Pruners

Today on Gardening in a Minute: sharpening your pruners.

It’s easy to overlook certain garden chores, but sharpening your pruners or loppers shouldn’t be one of them.

In fact, keeping your pruning tools sharp actually means better results for your plants. Clean, sharp cuts allow pruned areas to close more quickly and reduce the chances of rot or infection.

You can bring your tools to a professional sharpening service or sharpen them yourself.

Start by fastening the tool into a vice. Then use an oiled honing stone and work it along the beveled edge of the blade, always working in one direction. Special guides can help you keep the correct angle.

Some pruners also have replaceable blades, so it might be possible to swap them out if they get so dull or damaged that you can no longer sharpen them.

For more information about garden tools and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

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