

## Why are Sustainable Landscape Management practices important?



- ◆ Creates more attractive communities which increases property values
- ◆ Uses precious resources such as water and fossil fuels more efficiently
- ◆ Reduces trips to the landfill by eliminating excess plant waste
- ◆ Improves quality and appearance of plants for a more inviting environment

### Reasons for pruning

- ◆ To encourage the natural growth, flowering, and dormancy period of shrubs and ground covers
- ◆ Prune plants that have outgrown the space
- ◆ Prune for safety related issues – plants that encroach over sidewalks, obstruction lines of sight at intersections and driveways or that block signage
- ◆ Prune frost damage



### Why adopt sustainable pruning practices in your community?

- ◆ Promotes healthier plants by eliminating frequent pruning schedules
- ◆ Allows landscaping professionals to concentrate on more pressing issues such as replacing unhealthy or dead plants and checking irrigation
- ◆ Plants will require less water and will more likely grow to maturity
- ◆ Discourages the manipulation of shrubs into unnatural shapes
- ◆ Increases overall focus on what is best for the long term health of plants
- ◆ Reduces plant replacement costs due to shortened plant life span

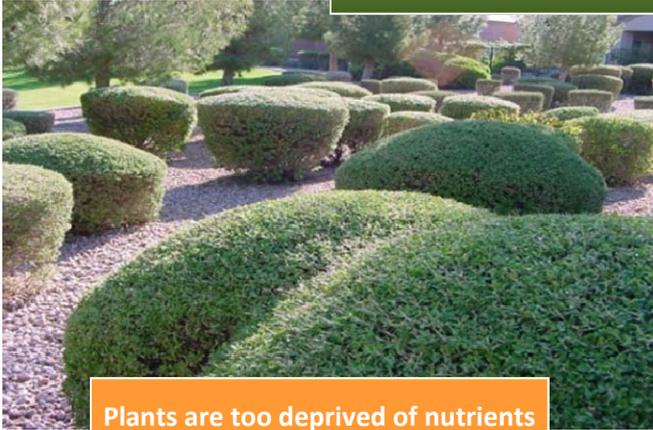


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## Results of Proper Pruning



Plants are too deprived of nutrients to remain healthy



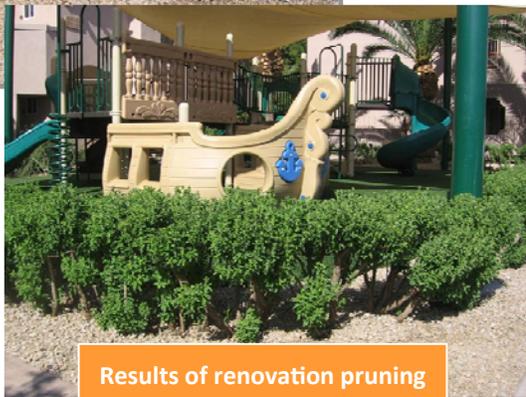
Proper and timely pruning promotes beautiful color and growth structure

### Renovation Style Pruning

- ◆ Promotes healthier plants by allowing them to grow, photosynthesize and bloom as they naturally should
- ◆ Excessively pruned shrubs are in a continuous state of stress, requiring more water to recover
- ◆ Enhances seasonal color by pruning during the proper time of year
- ◆ Reduces air & noise pollution from gas powered hedge trimmers and blowers
- ◆ Naturally maintained shrubs are more aesthetically pleasing and help achieve the overall intent of the design



- ◆ Many shrub varieties perform optimally when renovation pruning occurs every 2-3 years
- ◆ Renovation pruning can be staggered by species to avoid a totally denuded landscape



Results of renovation pruning a few months later

- ◆ Renovation pruning should be scheduled based on plant characteristics, growth pattern, bloom schedule and time of year
- ◆ Your landscape professional can offer the appropriate pruning schedule for plants growing in your community

These standards were written by landscape architect Janet Waibel and adopted by the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association. Is your landscape contractor SLM certified?

Go to [ALCA.org/SLM-certified](http://ALCA.org/SLM-certified) for a complete list of certified professionals.

