

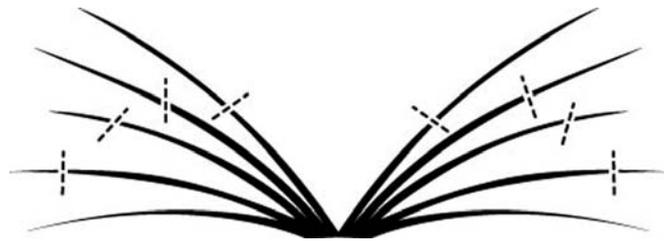


Pruning Spreading and Rounded Type Narrowleaf Evergreens

Pruning Spreading-Type Narrowleaf Evergreens. Plants such as junipers have a spreading growth habit. Prune junipers by cutting back enough growth to prevent leggy or uninhibited growth and to prevent needles from dropping off lower branches because of shading by upper branches. Cut back the longer branches that develop on top from a few inches to half the branch so the lower branches will be exposed to light, as illustrated in figure 13.17. Cut back some growth annually to prevent plants from getting out of bounds. Pfitzer juniper is an example of a vigorous, spreading narrowleaf evergreen that can produce 12 to 18 inches (30 to 45 cm) of growth annually. It may be necessary to cut back into the previous year's wood to maintain the desired size and shape of the plant.

Fig. 13.17

Spreading-type narrowleaf evergreens. Prune spreaders by cutting back longer upper branches as shown. Long branches should be cut back from a few inches to half the branch, as shown, to prevent shading of lower branches. Source: After Caldwell et al. 1972, p.11.



Pruning Rounded-Type Narrowleaf Evergreens. Brown yew and globe arborvitae are good examples of rounded-type evergreens. They are normally globe-shaped and should not be sheared. Both can be maintained at whatever height and size desired, however. Because brown yew develops as a broad, rounded specimen, prune about one-fourth to one-half of the previous year's growth to keep it bushy and compact. Thinning individual branches, rather than shearing, yields a more attractive, natural-looking growth habit. Globe arborvitae requires little, if any, pruning because of its formal growth habit.

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