



Do you have any overgrown shrubs that crowd your garden, walkways, obstruct views or lighting and possibly harbor unwanted pests?



Overgrown plants don't always need to be removed but can be corrected through a process called rejuvenation which is a very effective way to restore size, health, and appearance as well as cost effective by not having to buy new plants.

### Rejuvenation Pruning Tips



Rejuvenation pruning is a severe method that cuts the entire shrub back to 4–10 inches (or near ground level). Healthy shrubs respond with vigorous new shoots and improved flowering, resulting in a smaller, more manageable plant. This method provides immediate size reduction but leaves a temporary unsightly stump.

These before and after photos are from the recent *Abelia grandiflora* rejuvenation by **Groundskeeper Mathias Meza** at Meyer Green next to the new School of Education Campus. As you can see the results are impactful with more a more unobstructed view for pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles etc.

Shrubs that tolerate rejuvenation pruning are many and include many of the shrubs you see throughout our Stanford Campus such as roses, hydrangea, spirea, abelia, lilac, butterfly bush, myrtle and many others can be pruned in this manner.

### Considerations

- Not all shrubs tolerate rejuvenation pruning; avoid narrow-leaved evergreens and stressed or unhealthy plants.
- Spring-flowering shrubs will not bloom the year they are heavily pruned.
- The best time to prune is late winter, just before bud break.
- Heavily pruned shrubs may need extra water and fertilizer to recover.

### Prevention

The best way to avoid overgrown shrubs is proper plant selection and regular maintenance. Match shrubs to the space available and use timely thinning and heading cuts to maintain natural form, size, and health. Here is an excellent resource with many great tips on pruning and other garden related topics: <https://www.almanac.com/winter-pruning-guide-trees-and-shrubs>



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