

Pruning is a gardening practice that is often either overdone or completely ignored. By following a few general guidelines, your plants can have more and better blooms, a more desirable shape, and new and more vigorous growth. A rule of thumb for pruning flowering shrubs is to remove one-fourth to one-third of all older wood at ground level (old wood is usually larger and has darker colored bark than new wood). If you want to reduce the height of your shrubs you should use a selective "heading back" cut rather than shearing. Shearing generally will cause a dense growth to develop at the ends of the branches. This will shade the rest of the plant and is unhealthy for that plant. The cuts should be made individually, slightly above an active bud. This will allow a new shoot to develop from the bud. Summer flowering shrubs should be pruned when they are dormant (between December and March). You should prune spring flowering shrubs as soon as they have finished flowering. Shade trees need relatively little pruning. A good practice is to remove the dead or diseased wood and cut out any crowding or interfering branches.

Mulching is another gardening practice that is recommended for your landscape plants. Mulches help to control weeds, conserve moisture, control soil temperature and to protect the plants. Bark mulches can be applied three to four inches deep. Bark is low in nutrients and decomposes slowly, and is very attractive in your yard.

Taking a little extra care with some important gardening practices will keep your plants healthy and vigorous and will set the state to show off your home to its best advantage this summer and in the years to come.

James A. Fizzell, Sr. Extension Adviser  
Horticulture

### NIELSEN CONFIRMS NGF FIGURES CONCERNING GOLF'S GROWTH

NORTH PALM BEACH, FL -- The good news in the world of golf is that the A. C. Nielsen Company has just released figures showing that the number of golfers in America has grown by 9.2% since 1979 - to 17,367,000.

Those figures confirm information released earlier by the National Golf Foundation, which showed that as of Jan. 1, 1982, there were 17,100,000 golfers in the United States - or 7.6% more golfers than in 1979.

The National Golf Foundation, which is recognized as the research center of golf, says that early indications are that golf play in the first half of 1982 will also show an increase.

YEAR	GOLFERS A.C. NIELSEN	NGF
1976	16,568,000	16,000,000
1979	15,897,000	15,900,000
1982	17,367,000	17,100,000

A few humorous lines overhead at a recent retirement luncheon:

#### You know you're growing old when:

- You get winded playing chess.
- You sing your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist and 96 around the golf course.
- Your favorite part of the newspaper is 25 years ago today.
- You join a health club and don't go.
- Your children begin to look middle aged.
- Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- Your pacemaker makes the garage door open up when you watch a pretty girl go by.

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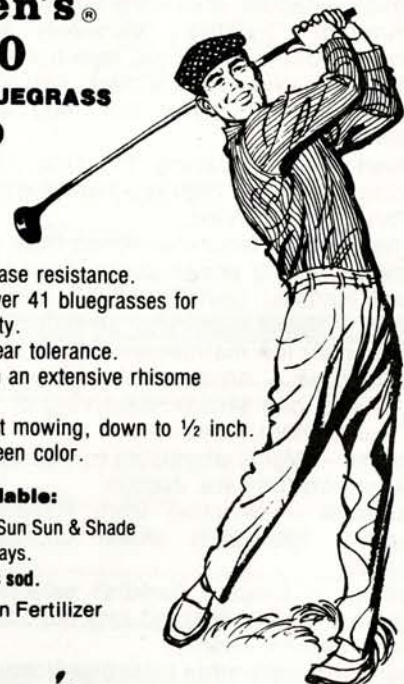
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