

Trimming requirements range from three basic tools to a shed full of specialized instruments. Home gardeners find pruning shears handy for light pruning and trimming. A saw is needed for larger branches. Hand loppers--long-handled and requiring use of both hands--let you prune higher sprouts and thicker twigs.

After each use, wipe blades clean. Lock the shed door or hang the tools where children can't get them. At the end of the season, oil and clean off any rust. Sharpen blades of square-edge blades and take saws to a commercial saw sharpener.