

JOBS FOR NOVEMBER

It seems that pruning is the theme for this month.

Remember not to use scissors on the foliage of conifers, as they will brown off. Just pinch out the unwanted growth and only use scissors to cut branches back to length.

Azaleas and any flowering trees that have finished flowering should have been repotted and continue to prune these to shape for the next couple of months using scissors to cut between leaves.

Any buds that are still shooting on pines should all be removed except the two side ones and once the buds develop into 'candles' of approximately one inch (25mm) length, pinch them back to half inch (12mm). This process will keep the internode length to a minimum.

When two new leaves appear on your Figs or Maples, remove the pointed unopened leaf 'axil' between them by pinching, this will keep your trees nice and compact.

Any figs with large leaves can be defoliated any time from now until January, (my preference being Christmas time) by removing all leaves. This is done by cutting the leaf stem (petiole) in half.

Dormant buds lay in the junction of the petiole and branch and when new leaves emerge they are considerably smaller than the removed ones.

Try to keep on top of your maple pruning, as neglect at this time of year will harm your branch ramification and internode length.

As it is show time, ensure that weeds are removed from pots, any dead needles or leaves are cleaned up and pots are given a quick wipe with cooking or baby oil. A sprinkle of fresh gravel will make them look fresher as well, especially with some new moss. It is important that every tree is shown at its best regardless of whether it is a masterpiece or just an average tree in training.