

► Pruning

Pruning is occasionally necessary to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches, improve structure, enhance vigour, maintain safety or for aesthetic reasons such as topiary.

Pruning mature trees can be difficult to manage safely and **extremely dangerous** if not done correctly. The range of tree surgeons/arborists who operate is vast, with some 'arborists' lacking professional qualifications and experience, who can destroy your tree in a few minutes and rarely carry insurance if anything goes wrong. Choose a professional arborist who carries adequate insurance, is qualified and comes highly recommended. **(Please visit the *Arboricultural Association website* > *Find A Professional at www.trees.org.uk*).**

It is always a good idea to request and check references before contracting any tree work: we have received phone calls from too many people looking for replacement trees after poor tree work has been carried out. A qualified arborist or tree surgeon will be able to determine what type of pruning is necessary to maintain or improve the health, appearance and safety of your trees.



Cutting out any reversion on variegated trees is important, as the reverted/green growth will grow much faster and eventually dominate the tree.