

Tsuru 鶴 Soars

Friends of the Gresham Japanese Garden Newsletter



Who Knows the Origin of Origami?

Origami probably began in China, but no one knows for sure, just like no one knows for sure that paper was invented in China. Since the 19th century, we know that origami is a hybrid of East and West cultures.

Styles of origami (“Oru” to fold and “kami” paper,) are classified by origin and dates; Before Origami, Japanese Classic Origami, European Classic Origami, Traditional Origami, Modern Origami, Mathematical Origami, and last Artistic Origami.

No matter where or when origami origi-



nated, many people around the world enjoy its artistry.

The Garden offers enjoyable and challenging monthly artistic origami folding workshops taught by art

therapist Eileen Holzman. She takes all level of students (8 years old and older) on a creative journey of paper folding.

Origami USA (origamiusa.org) is a great resource for those interested in learning more.



PHOTOGRAPHER’S VIEW

散紅葉流れぬ水は翌のためか
chiru momiji nagarenu mizu wa asu no tame ka

*Red leaves fall, just to be swept away,
tomorrow?*

— Issa 1804

SIGN UP ON WEBSITE:

[Origami for Everyone Workshop](#)
[Wednesday, December 22nd](#)
[6-7:15pm - \\$20](#)

Basic Pruning Terminology

In upcoming issues, we'll be sharing how to prune different species. A good baseline is learning the five basic cuts.

REDUCTION CUTS: To reduce or shorten the length of a branch by pruning back to a branch junction.

This is the most common cut to maintain the size and shape of trees. **Do not leave a stub at the juncture.** To determine if you should make the cut, arborists insist that to prevent excessive sprouting the remaining lateral branch must be at least 1/3 the size of the removed branch.

REMOVAL CUTS: Remove branches at their point of attachment.

In most cases, this means cutting a branch where it emerges from the trunk.

Removal cuts are used when you need to thin out the plant's foliage to provide sunlight and remove dead wood. Removal cuts do not usually alter the shape or size of the tree.

HEADING CUTS: Shorten branches by cutting between internodes or branch junctions. Heading cuts are usually not advised because it can cause the tree to sprout excessively from the cut or ultimately cause the tree to die.

If you're an experienced pruner, heading cuts *can* be useful to increase foliage and fill in thin areas.

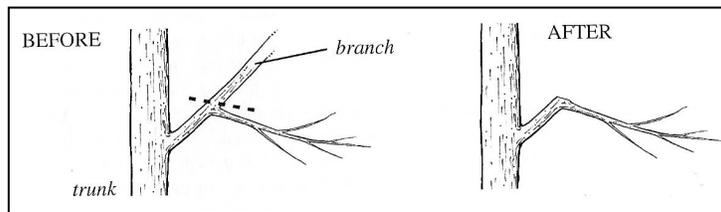
SHEARING: Performed with the intent of creating a uniform profile.

We see a lot of poor shearing identified by heading cuts, leaving woody interior stubs exposed. The highest quality shearing is snip-by-snip technique to the new growth only.

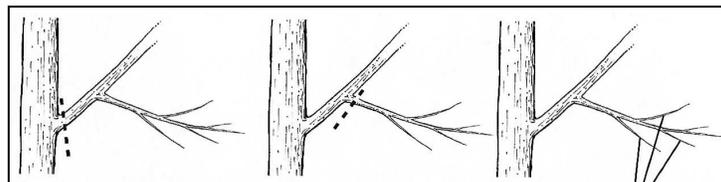
TIPPING: Removing leaves or stems from the end of a stem.

This cut is used to slow down the growth, redirect energy, and help give a uniform appearance.

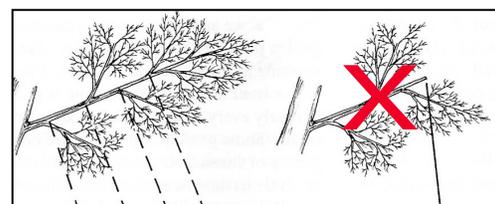
You can learn a lot by monitoring your pruning cuts season after season. Notice which pruning cuts most effectively gives the look you want.



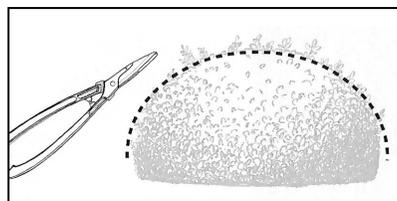
Reduction Cut Diagram



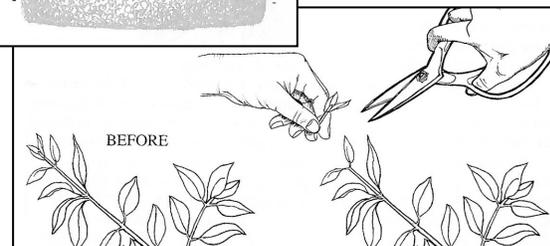
Removal Cut Diagram



Heading Cut Diagram



Shearing Diagram



Tipping



GARDENER'S TIP

Fruit trees have been slow to go into dormancy this fall, so December would be a fine time to trim suckers, remove limbs to help interior air flow, and prune to promote more fruiting spurs.

Also, provide protective mulch, especially around sensitive plants, to help them deal with colder winter weather that is bound to come.

— Jim Buck, Garden Volunteer and Organic Gardener

Relaxing Videos



Grab a cup of tea (as Jim would say), go to the Garden's YouTube account, and relax to a compilation of Japanese instrumental music by Takohachi Inc. and photos of Tsuru Island through different seasons.

YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiauNN6_kH_6b1n-qxuLQRQ

Generous Business Owner



In 2019, the Garden received grant money to run internet throughout the park, but it didn't include all the wiring and connections necessary between youth baseball, the Resource Center, and Tsuru Island.

Randy Paden, with RP Computing, (rpcomputing.biz) has put in countless hours pro bono wiring all these connection points. We truly appreciate his generosity.

Mushrooms. Mushrooms. Mushrooms!

by Mary Marrs

What's that peeking out of the mulch? What's emerging from beneath the pine needles and leaves? It's mushrooms! With the rain, we'll see more and more of them in our yards, gardens, trail systems, and at Ebetsu Plaza.

But what exactly are mushrooms? They're actually the fruit of a certain fungi that forms intricate underground webs of fine threads called mycelia. There are thousands of different kinds of fungi and mushrooms. Some can be delicious and some are mildly to highly toxic, so it's best to use good identification books and the advice of experts if you are new to mushroom picking.

But it can be fun to discover and explore them! Start by looking at the underside of the mushroom. Do you see gills, which are the radiating blades that fan out from the stem to the edge? The color of the gills could be white, yellow, pink, brown or black. If there aren't gills, is the underside spongy or does it have pores or downward pointing spines?

Look at the top of the mushroom or the cap. Is the cap shaped like a bowl or like an umbrella? Does it have flakes or patches on it? Is it shaped like a brain or has a honeycombed texture? Some mushrooms don't have stalks, but grow



like a shelf on a tree trunk or on the ground as a ball. Mushrooms come in such a wide range of shapes, sizes, structures and colors, that identification can be tricky.

If you find a fresh mushroom with gills, you can make a spore print. Microscopic spores are like the mushroom's seeds, which are housed in the gills until it's ready to release them into the wind. Remove the stem and place the mushroom gill-side down halfway on a white sheet of paper and halfway on a black sheet of paper. Place a bowl over the mushroom and give it time to release its spores. The imprint of the spores can be light-colored like white, pink, light purple, or yellow. It can be dark like orange,

cinnamon, brown or black. The color of the spores is often a key to identifying a specific mushroom.

Most importantly when you see mushrooms, know that they are a vital and significant part of nature.

Most importantly when you see mushrooms, know that they are a vital and significant part of nature. The majority of fungi which produce mushrooms help to replenish soil by breaking down wood and other complex organic matter and by forming beneficial relationships within the rootlets of plants, so nutrients can be exchanged.

So, the next time you see a mushroom, take pleasure in its amazing role in the environment around us. Take a photograph, and let it be!

MUSHROOM RESOURCE

Oregon Mycological Society (OMS)
<https://www.wildmushrooms.org/>:

This society is quite active in our area. In usual times, they offer a fall mushroom show, field trips, educational activities, monthly meetings with speakers and much more.



NAJGA - Our Industry Partner

by Jim Card

Last month was the 4th North American Japanese Garden Association (NAJGA) conference I've attended. This one was held at San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden. There was an exciting new tide of speakers coming from all over the country discussing garden design, construction, and garden history. Workshops covered wood joinery, raising koi, Japanese lanterns, and pruning.

A new waterfall was being constructed at the Friendship Garden. I watched a crane move 2,000 pound boulders. Reminded me of our Garden's Rebirth.

On the last day, a tour bus took a large group of us to four gardens in the Los Angeles area. The most interesting was a private garden built in the 1930's. The present homeowner employs six full-time gardeners and opens the garden to

the public.

A few notable takeaways validated at this conference for me were: We're fortunate our Japanese garden is only 3/4 of an acre. Many of the gardens, even with gardeners on staff, cannot keep up with the maintenance. And, our organization is fortunate that we're supported and appreciated by city government.

Hiroshima Peace Tree

by Mary Dickson

The City of Gresham and Gresham Japanese Garden have recently been given a Hiroshima Peace Tree, so named because it grew from a seed collected from a tree that survived the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. Jim Buck, Garden volunteer, said that the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has been making trees available to Tree Cities like Gresham. Jim picked up a 2.5-foot potted ginkgo in October from ODF. During the bombing, 90% of Hiroshima was destroyed, but the survivors included 170 trees in 55 locations, within about 1¼ miles of ground zero. Since 1945, tree experts and volunteers have lovingly tended the trees that survived the bomb. Each carries a nameplate reading Hibakujumoku (survivor tree). The word “ginkgo” comes from a Japanese word. “Gin” means “silver” and “kyo” means “apricot.”

Seeds that came from survivor trees have been distributed around the world.

Since 2011, seeds that came from survivor trees have been distributed around the world. The seeds are carefully harvested, inspected in line with the quarantine regulations of the receiving country, and kept in the storage facility at the Hiroshima Botanical Garden until being shipped. Ginkgo seeds come from Hiroshima’s historical Shukkeien Garden (which I have visited). These peace trees symbolize regeneration and reconciliation. According to the website from the New York Botanical Garden, there is a difference between male and female trees, and their gender does not show itself for up to 15 years. Female ginkgo trees drop their fleshy fruit in the fall. When crushed by passing cars or pedestrians, they release a stench that has been likened to

rotten butter, vomit, or dog excrement. It is what gives the ginkgo tree a bad name.

Though they smell terrible, the female cones, once harvested and processed, reveal seeds known as “white nuts” or “ginkgo nuts.” These seeds are a delicacy in Chinese and Japanese cooking, used in stuffing, soups, and even desserts. This treat is also nutritious, containing 13% protein and 3% fats. That is why female ginkgo trees are sought out by those who envision making Bird’s Nest Soup and other traditional Asian dishes. Ginkgo seed hunters wear shoes with soles that can be easily washed and carry gloves and Ziploc bags.

Are you familiar with ginkgo trees? These stately trees can reach 100 feet tall when mature. They have light-gray bark and fan-shaped leaves. As they age, the crown of the tree gets wider, and in autumn it turns golden yellow. Two 70-year-old trees stand tall on the west side of Gresham High School.

Ginkgo, or maidenhair tree, is known as a “living fossil,” because it was a common tree species when dinosaurs roamed Earth, about 225 million years ago. Ginkgo was thought to be extinct until several plantings were discovered in eastern China.

Plans for Gresham’s tree are to protect it from winter weather and let it grow for another year before planting, probably in Main City Park. ODF, City of Gresham



2.5 ft Hiroshima Peace Tree (Ginkgo Tree)

Parks Department tree specialists, and other experts will carefully consider locations that will provide optimal conditions for the tree’s successful growth. One possibility is to plant it on September 21, 2022, International Peace Day.

The ODF website provides a map of all other Hiroshima Peace Trees planted in public places in 32 communities throughout Oregon from 2019-2021. The program started when Japanese native Hideko Tamura-Snyder expressed to ODF’s Jim Gersbach her wish for peace trees from Hiroshima to be planted throughout Oregon, her adopted home.

Watch for more information once a decision is made on the location and timing of the planting of our Hiroshima Peace Tree.



Holiday Wreath Making Workshop

Ring in the holidays with your personal touch. Choose from a variety of greens provided by Cherié Siegmund from Cedarglen Floral to create a 22” diameter holiday wreath.

Thursday, Dec 8th, 2-3:30pm, \$22.00 - Includes instruction and supplies
Register at: <https://www.greshamjapanesegarden.org/product/holiday-wreath-class/>