Pruning Evergreen Trees

Created by the Grand Junction District
For more information contact us at 970-248-7325
Caution

• The following pruning information and instructions are designed for small to medium sized pruning jobs

• If the work is off the ground, if a chainsaw is needed, or for tree removal: the work should be done by a ISA Certified Arborist with insurance
All conifer trees must have a dominant central leader.
Establish a Leader - Conifers

Choose the Straightest and the Strongest as a leader
Prune Woody Stems

Prune to an existing bud. Do not stub!
Pruning Evergreen Candles

- New growth without needles is often times called a candle

- Candles can be easily snapped off when they have completed growth but before the needles have emerged

- This is an excellent way to control height growth and make a pine or spruce fuller looking

- By pruning conifers in this manner you avoid the sheared look
Prune New Growth

Before needles emerge, prune by Pinching the succulent, green shoot to reduce the height for the growing season.
Pruning Evergreen Candles

Before  After
Favorite Websites

Special Thanks to Vince Urbina for his pictures and information.

- **Dr. Ed Gillman**
  - http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/

- **OSU Landscape Plants**
  - http://oregonstate.edu/dept/ldplants/

- **Tree Browser from Utah State University – Extension Forestry**
  - http://treebrowser.org

- **Colorado State Extention**
  - www.ext.colostate.edu/

- **Colorado Tree Coalition**
  - www.coloradotrees.org