

Essential Pruning Techniques: Trees, Shrubs and Conifers

George E. Brown

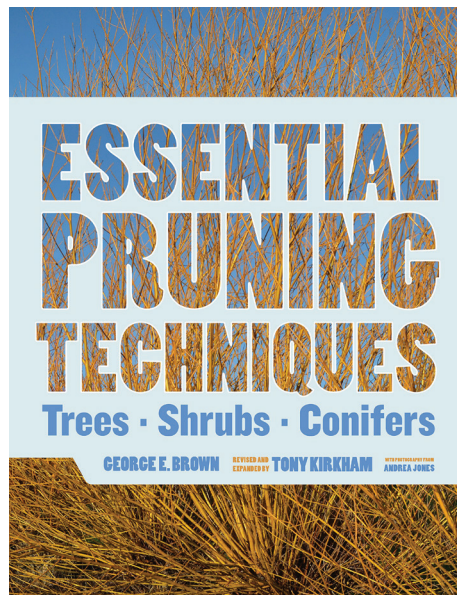
Revised and expanded by Tony Kirkham

Photography by Andrea Jones

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When George Brown's book *The pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers* first came out in 1972, it quickly became a best seller and established itself as the standard reference on the subject. It has remained so for over 40 years.

Why a new version now? As the noted tree author, Hugh Johnson, says in his introduction to this book "Have trees changed? Isn't an oak still an oak?" Yes, but our knowledge moves on. Our expectations and tastes change. "The sum of professional experience grows." And who better to bring all of this together than Tony Kirkham, who is responsible for all the 14,000 trees and shrubs at the famous Kew Gardens. Based on his vast experience, Mr. Kirkham offers up-to-date pruning advice for 379 woody plants, step-by-step instructions on the latest techniques and practises, and specific advice for addressing risks from climate change.

The most obvious difference between this edition and its predecessors is the high quality photographic illustrations by Andrea Jones. To quote Hugh Johnson again “It is like walking through the ideal arboretum on a fine day”.

This edition starts with a section on the general principles of pruning from tool selection and maintenance to such diverse subjects as fruit trees, hedging, pleaching, topiary etc.

This book then takes the form of a gazetteer of woody plants from *Abelia* to *Zenobia* with plenty of discussion and advice on each. The author starts the section on each plant by answering the basic questions of “reasons for pruning” and “when to prune” – all basic, but very important information.

If you only ever have one book on pruning in your collection, let it be this one. Very highly recommended.

Kevin J. Hutchinson.