

MYTH

A BLEACH SOLUTION IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR DISINFECTING PRUNING TOOLS



THE FACTS

A bleach solution is NOT the best method for disinfecting pruning tools

- Chlorine bleach is an oxidizing agent – it is CORROSIVE
 - Bleach is POISONOUS TO PLANTS, more so than any of the other commonly used disinfectants
 - Any bleach left on pruning tools will DAMAGE the tissues of the next cut.
- Prolonged contact between bleach and metal may cause pruning equipment to pit or discolour.
 - Pits (small holes) caused by the corrosion can harbour microbes that may FURTHER damage plants.

Better Practice

Clean pruning tools with household cleaners such as *Lysol*.

REFERENCES

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/Pruning.pdf>

<https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/403/2015/03/cloroxed-clippers.pdf>