

Pruning Crops



Pruning allows for greater production in plants by redirecting energy from extra growth back to the plant. It also allows for more air flow, keeping plants healthy and happy.

This is especially effective for fruiting and flowering plants that need energy directed to their fruits/flowers, and that will be in the system longer and grow larger, therefore requiring extra air flow.

In the following pages you will find specific guides for crops to prune that are most commonly grown in hydroponics:

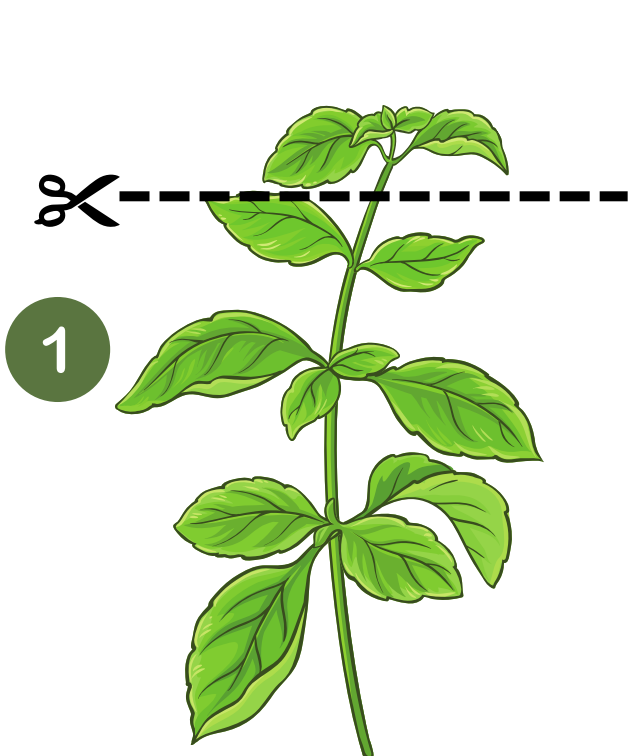
- Basil
- Tomatoes
- Peppers

NOTE: When pruning, never remove more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the plant at a time!

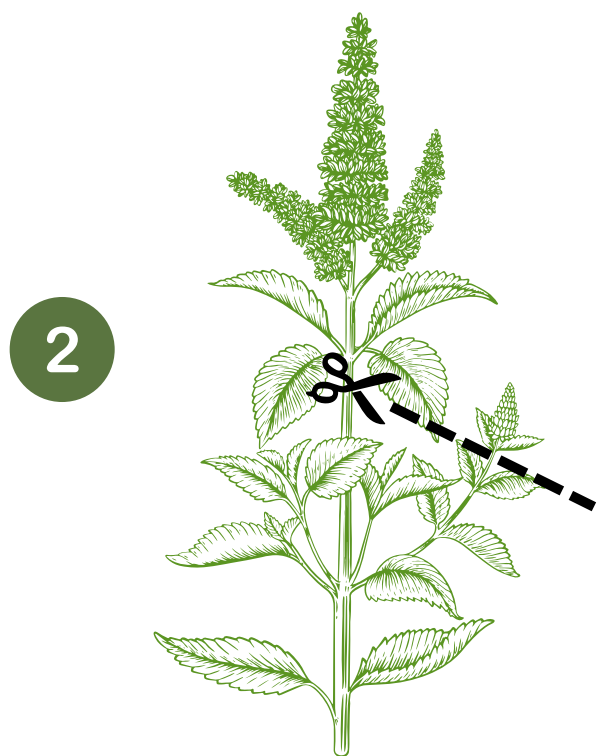


Pruning Basil

1. Cut the main stem just above the 3rd node (3rd set of leaves)
2. Repeat for all new shoots, cutting above the 2nd or 3rd node (set of leaves)



CUT STEM JUST
ABOVE 3RD NODE
(SET OF LEAVES)



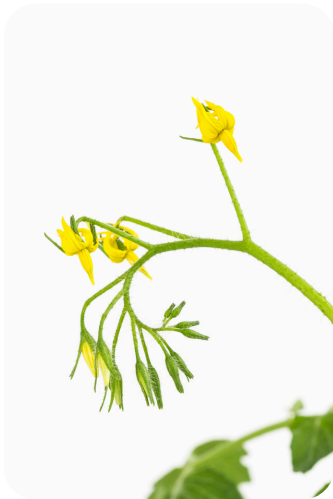
REPEAT FOR SIDE
SHOOTS

Pruning: Tomatoes

1. Identify the lowest flower or fruit cluster on the main stem
2. By pinching them off or using a clean shears, remove all suckers (side shoots) from the plant EXCEPT for the sucker just below the lowest flower/fruit cluster
3. Remove lower/dead leaves as plant grows larger

For best results, prune regularly

1



ID LOWEST
FRUIT/FLOWER
CLUSTER

2

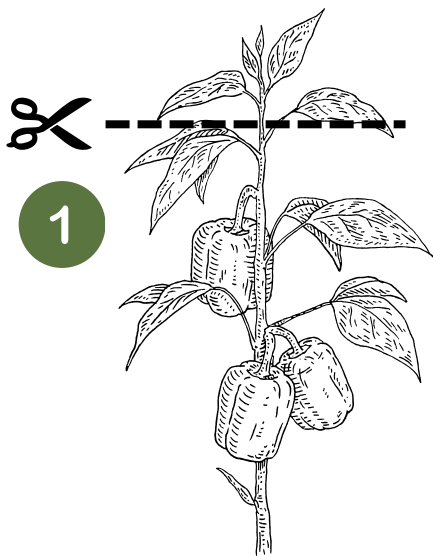


REMOVE SUCKERS EXCEPT FOR THE
SUCKER JUST BELOW THE LOWEST
FLOWER/FRUIT CLUSTER

Pruning Peppers

1. Cut the stem's main tip when the plant is ~10 inches tall, or just above the 2nd or 3rd set of true leaves
2. Remove side shoots (suckers) as they appear by pinching them off or with clean shears
3. Remove lower leaves as the plant grows larger

For best results, prune regularly



CUT STEM'S TIP



REMOVE SUCKERS