

Meopham Garden Association
Garden Forum Meeting 13th February 2012

Question	Answer
When should buddleia be trimmed back? (Jo Armstrong)	End February/Early March. Either almost to ground level or half way down depending on space available.
Can large hebes be pruned right back? (Elizabeth Thomas)	Some hebes shoot from the bottom but generally they cannot survive heavy pruning.
Are seep hose irrigation systems worthwhile installing? (Enid Lander)	Seep hose and sprinklers work well in vegetable gardens and drip systems are suited to watering containers and specific plants.
When is the best time to prune fuchsias? (Rosemary Divall)	In the spring
A recent gift pot of chrysanthemums was looking poorly. Could it be revived? (Anne Nicholson)	Probably not because it may have been kept in a chilled environment which would have damaged the root system before being sold
Pot grown standard gooseberry plant not looking good? (Jacky Read)	They are deep rooted and would be best if planted in the ground and pruned from the middle thereby opening up the plant.
Should a verbena bonariensis be pruned right back? (Lesley Foxwell)	Cut to ground level if you wish to encourage single stems from the sides
Should hollyhocks be cut down? (Roy Lingham)	If cut down they will branch out from the sides..
Healthy looking tree peonies which haven't bloomed. Any ideas? (Hazel Borrow)	They sometimes take many years before flowering. Discussion followed as to whether they like full sun or not!
Having difficulty getting spinach to germinate? (David Pritchard)	Spinach germinates best in cooler conditions.
Various questions arose regarding pruning pear and plum trees.	The advice given by members generally was not to prune unless branches were damaged or crossing. Necessary pruning is best done during a dry spell, usually August/September. Plums will fruit bi-annually. Sticky grease bands should be placed around tree trunks in October to prevent female codling moth caterpillars climbing up the tree trunks to lay their eggs. Vaseline has also been successful. Nematode control has been tried as well.