

What are Pruning Shears?

Pruning shears, also called hand pruners (in American English), or secateurs, are a type of scissors for use on plants. They are strong enough to prune hard branches of trees and shrubs, sometimes up to three quarters of an inch thick. They are used in gardening, arboriculture, farming, flower arranging, and nature conservation, where fine-scale habitat management is required. [Loppers](#) are a larger, two-handed, long-handled version for branches thicker than pruning shears can cut.



Cutting plants as part of gardening dates to antiquity in both Europe and East Asian topiary, with specialized scissors used for Chinese penjing and its offshoots – Japanese bonsai and Vietnamese Hòn Non-Bộ – for over a thousand years. There are three different blade designs for pruning shears: Anvil pruners, which have only one blade, which closes onto a flat surface; Bypass pruners, which usually work exactly like a pair of scissors with two blades "passing by" each other to make the cut; and Parrot-beak pruners, which consist of two concave passing blades, which trap the stem between them to make the cut. – from [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org)

This tool is used by the majority of Spooky Beaver maintainers or overseers on the trails that they maintain. They use it to cut back small branches, weeds and/or blades of grass that encroach upon the trail. Along with loppers and a small handsaw, pruning shears are one of three essential tools used to maintain the trails in Prince William Forest Park.

Check back here often as we will be describing various tools that the Spooky Beavers utilize when doing trailwork in Prince William Forest Park, VA.