

Plant Rejuvenations: Red Birds of Paradise

ELS Maintenance, Inc.



Red Birds of Paradise, also known as *Caesalpinia Pulcherrima*, is a perennial flowering shrub that is very popular in the desert landscape as it is low maintenance, affordable, and drought tolerant. These plants are known for their ability to grow to large sizes (up to 10-20 feet when mature) as well as for their beautiful red flowers that bloom in late Spring, making them the perfect addition to any Arizona community.

Red Birds of Paradise are able to tolerate high Summer temperatures and can withstand extremely dry climates such as that of Arizona. However, when temperatures drop below freezing the plant will go dormant and lose its leaves until warmer temperatures arrive again in the Spring. This dormant period provides an opportune time to perform rejuvenation pruning on the plant to ensure that it is healthy year-round.

Rejuvenation Pruning

Rejuvenation pruning is a type of pruning that is done seasonally, as needed, to ensure long term health of the plant. The time of pruning is different per plant based on blooming schedule, characteristics of the plant, and growth pattern. For the Red Bird of Paradise, proper time for rejuvenation pruning is when temperatures begin to cool in late Fall/ early Winter and the plant begins to fall into dormancy, typically in the month of November.

Renovation style pruning has many benefits for the plant itself as well as for the overall landscape of a community. Reasons for this type of pruning range from encouraging natural growth and dormancy periods for various shrubs as well as ensuring that plants are able to perform optimally when renovation pruning is done.

It is important to remember that this type of pruning must be done during the appropriate time of the year as excessive pruning is detrimental to the health of the plant and places the shrubs in a constant state of stress.

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Red Birds of Paradise will be pruned this season, prior to Winter, to avoid the natural die-back to the ground that they experience when temperatures drop below freezing. Pruning of these plants ensures that they look their best, maintain a nice shape, and handles any plants that may have grown into the sidewalks or grown to obstruct views of signs, driveways, and more.

These plants are large plants that serve as a beautiful and easily maintained attraction in HOA communities. With the proper rejuvenation pruning and maintenance they can survive for many years and look great in any community, making them a favorite among homeowners and landscapers alike.

To learn more about landscaping tips and tricks as well as what ELS Maintenance can do for the landscape of your community visit our website at www.elslandscapeaz.com

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