



INFO GUIDE #5

How to Top, Lollipop, and Prune Cannabis Plants

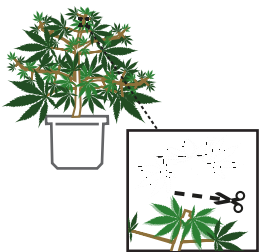
While not as important as genetics, environmental controls, or stable nutrition, plant “shaping” techniques like topping, lollipopping, and pruning can benefit cannabis crops in amazing ways. Correctly shaping plants can increase yields, quality, and performance during the flowering stage.

Why Shape Cannabis Plants?

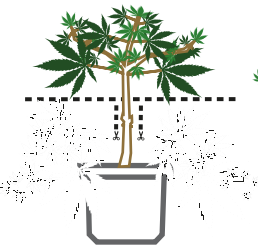
Growers typically shape their plants to influence healthier, higher-quality growth. The process of shaping involves removing select plant material to open up avenues for new growth. By removing old growth like small branches or large fan leaves, your plants can benefit by redirecting nutrients, water, and hormones to future bud sites. Also, the removal of lower quality plant material can increase light intensity and airflow.

Different Shaping Techniques

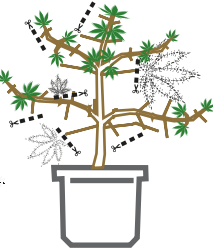
#1 Topping



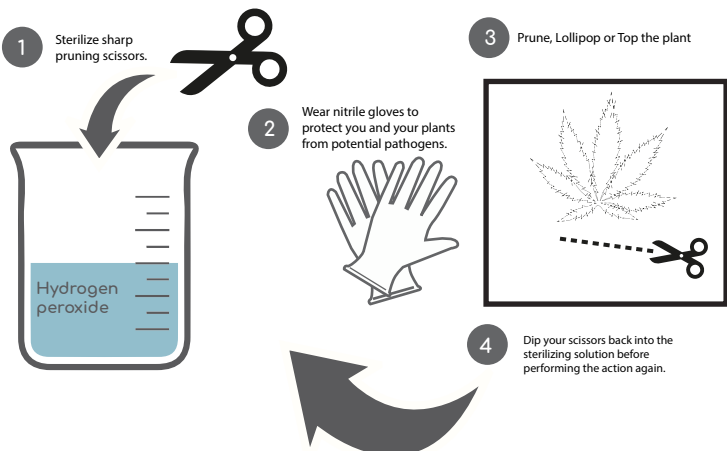
#2 Lollipopping



#3 Pruning



Sanitation & Sterilization Process

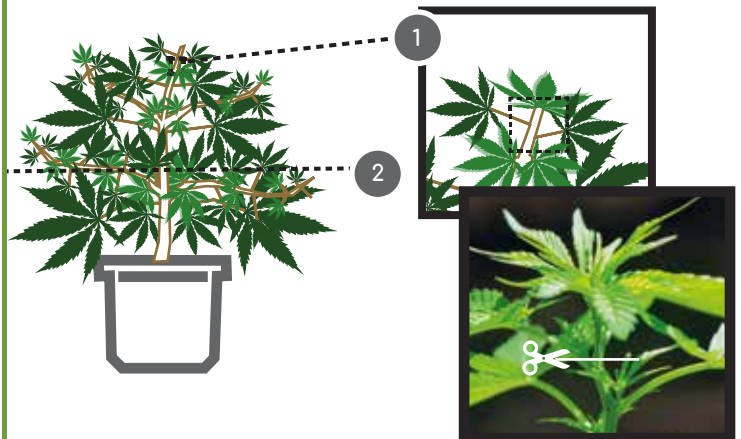


#1 Topping

Topping is the process of removing the top node of a plant to influence two new tops. If correctly topped, your plant will grow like a candelabra, with several primary tops, instead of just one.

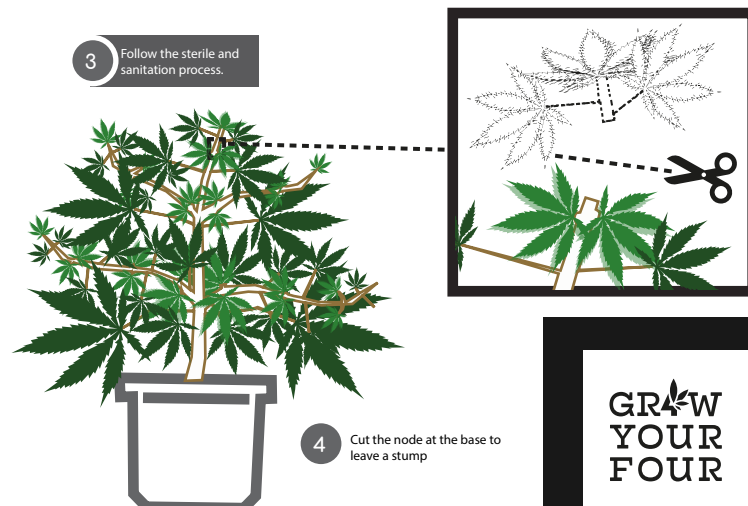
Step #1: Examine Your Plants for a Topping Point

1 Examine your plants for a topping point where two new tops intersect. Keep in mind that plants can be topped more than once. So, 2 do not cut off more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of a plant's total height. Also, if you're topping your entire crop, try to pinpoint the same topping point across the garden. This will ensure that all your plants will mature and grow at the same height.



Step #2: Top Your Plants

After examining your plants for a topping point, it's time to make your cut. Use sharp pruning scissors that have been sterilized with alcohol or high strength hydrogen peroxide to avoid fungal or viral infections. Once sterilized, cut the apical and appropriately intersecting top from your plant.



GR4W
YOUR
FOUR



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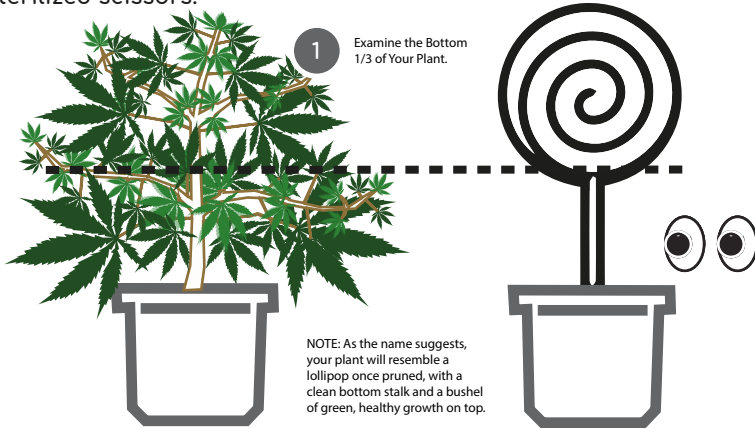
#2 Lollipopping

Lollipopping is a term used to describe the removal of the lower 1/3 of plant material from the stalk. As the name suggests, your plant will resemble a lollipop once pruned, with a clean bottom stalk and a bushel of green, healthy growth on top.

Step #1: Examine the Bottom 1/3 of Your Plant

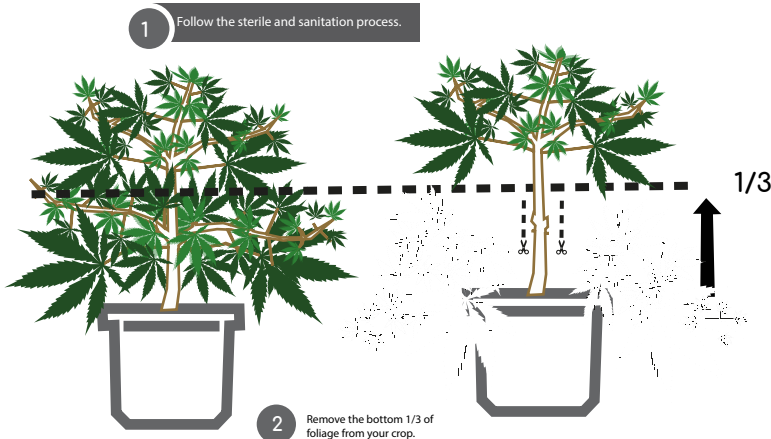
Since you'll be removing the bottom portion of your plant's foliage and shoots, briefly examine the areas you'll be cutting.

Lollipopping can also be stressful for plants. So, try to make the process as easy as possible by moving quickly with sharp, sterilized scissors.



Step #2: Lollipop Your Plants

Once you've examined your plants, it's time to remove the bottom of foliage from your crop. When cutting, attempt to remove the lower plant material as close to the stalk as possible, without damaging the stalk itself. Once finished, your plants will resemble a lollipop from any side profile view, but they will still be bushy and full of growing tops.



#3 Pruning

Pruning is the action of removing excess plant material that prevents light intensity and airflow. It's important to clear excess plant material from inside your stalk to open up more productive growth to light and air.

Step #1: Examine Your Plants

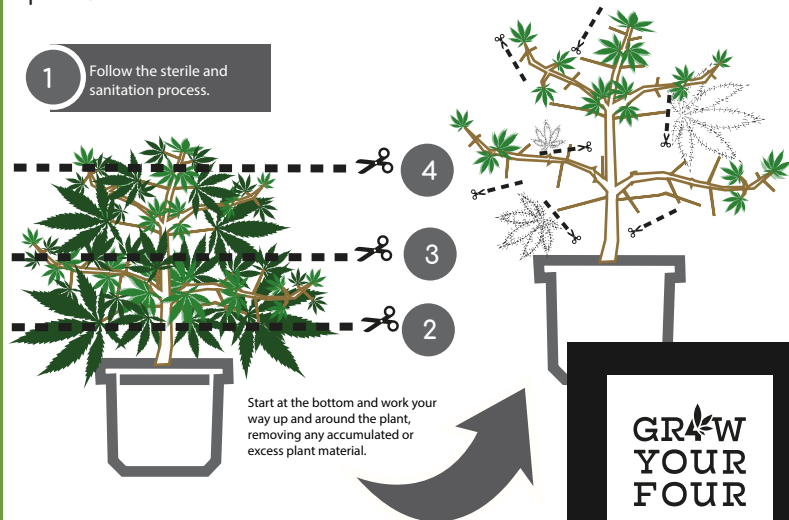
Plants in need of a prune will be extremely bushy - try to avoid pruning thinly stacked plants that already have sufficient access to light and airflow. Unfortunately, there is no guideline on how much to prune your plants. So, consider being conservative during this process.

- Prune when the Cannabis Plant is extremely bushy
- Avoid pruning thinly stacked plants
- Be careful "Over-pruning" can be an issue
- You're trimming to allow more light and air flow through the plant



Step #2: Begin Pruning

Start at the bottom and work your way up and around the plant, removing any accumulated or excess plant material. If you feel that some bottom or lateral growth will be beneficial to your plant in the future, keep it rather than pruning it away. For the best results, use sterilized scissors and gloves, and re-sanitize your equipment as you move from plant to plant.



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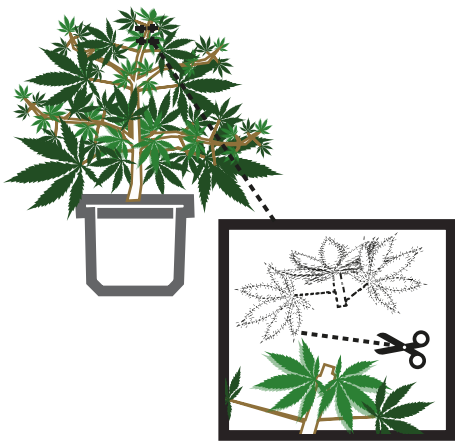
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Other Tips and Considerations

Not All Plant Need to be Topped, Lollipopped, and Pruned

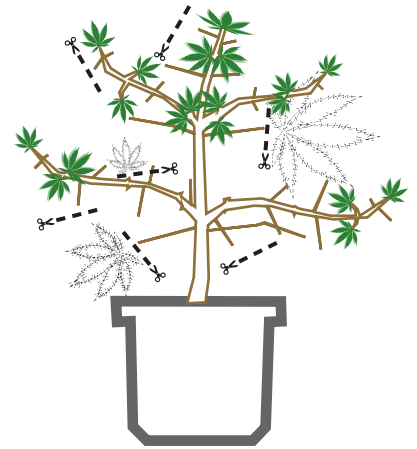
Topping, lollipopping, and pruning your plants all at the same time can be harmful to the natural growth patterns of your crop. Some plants may not even need to be heavily pruned or lollipopped during the vegetative stage at all.



#1 Topping



#2 Lollipopping



#3 Pruning

Plant Shaping is Stressful

The process of cutting off excess plant material can be stressful for plants. Luckily, there are ways of preventing plant stress. Foliar feeding B1 vitamins or feeding kelp extract to the root zone are two ways of managing plant stress. For the best results, foliar feed your plants with at least one of these supplements 24 hours before shaping or pruning your crop.



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