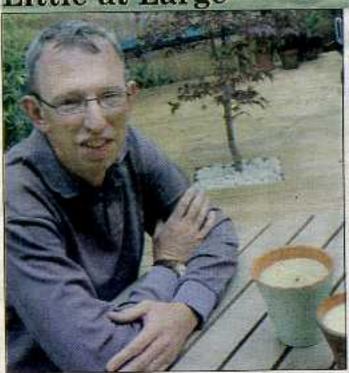
Little at Large



Garden talk, by Simply Garden's Martin Little

ALTHOUGH it's a job which often gets overlooked or put off, cutting a hedge is an essential part of summer maintenance.

It is also immensely uniform shape that sets off a bare base. the entire garden.

hedge is simple and here are a few tips to obtain it.

ultimate hedge shape to have perfectly straight, vertical sides and a precise horizontal top.

In fact a gradual slope, so hedge the wider at its base, better as it allows light to fall more evenly on its sur-

Never have a wider top, as satisfying to see a shaggy this will shade the lower outline transformed into a branches eventually causing

A top-heavy shape will some. The secret of the perfect also be much more prone to SHOW. damage from which may break the Many people imagine the branches in the winter.

A good eye is often all that's needed to produce an even cut.

So stand back often, to check the shape. I must admit, though, that this comes with experience.

A simple guide can be made from bamboo canes and string, and this is especially useful for getting a straight top.

A mature hedge can be in check kept simply cutting off all new growth made during the summer.

establishing a When hedge, it's also important to prune from the start.

This may seem a waste of growth when looking for a quick hedge.

But it pays dividends in the end as early pruning will encourage bushy growth which will furnish the hedge with branches to ground.

the Always use equipment for correct a safe and effective job and choose tools that are comfortable for you to manage.

You may think, for example, that a longer blade will get the work done quicker, but it may not be an advantage if it makes the tool heavy and cumber-

Happy gardening Martin Little