

# Plant snips

## Tried & tested



Consumer editor **Julia Heaton** has some thinning and trimming to do. How will four flower snips fare with the job?

THINK OF pruning and the words secateurs and loppers immediately spring to mind. But lurking amongst these fine implements are a group of munchkin pruners – enter plant snips. These unsung hero's of pruning are a bit of a cross between secateurs and bonsai scissors. Most operate just like normal scissors, with a spring, like most secateurs, and are designed mainly for deadheading and fine pruning of prized plants.

Out of the four pairs tested this week, three resemble large scissors and one is like a secateur and my trial revealed some amazing results. All four were pitted against shearing thin anthemis flower stalks and a ¼in (15mm) cherry tree branch. However, it's probably better to use good secateurs if you intend to do a lot of this latter type of pruning.



### BUILD ★★★★★

Blades made from high quality Japanese steel and alloy handles with a plastic over grip. These snips measure 8in (120mm) long.

### FEATURES ★★★★★

A plastic safety catch grips onto the base of the contoured handles, while the cutting mechanism is governed by a metal spring attached between the handles. Cutting length is 2½in (60mm) long.

### PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

Great results when shearing and was second best when cutting the cherry. I liked the well designed lock and the comfy grip. They are obviously well designed and are the perfect tool for deadheading and intricate shearing.

### VALUE ★★★★★

Perfect build puts these snips up there amongst the best. I couldn't fault their performance and I'm tempted to put them on my list of Christmas presents for friends.