

Pruning Tips

Timing Chart for Pruning

Immediately After Bloom

Azalea
 Broom
 Clethera
 Crabapple
 Forsythia
 Heather
 Itea
 Leucothoe
 Lilac
 Magnolia
 Mock Orange
 Red Bud
 Rhododendron
 Viburnum
 Weigela

Late Winter / Early Spring

Arborvitae
 Barberry
 Boxwood
 Butterfly bush
 Caryopteris
 Cedar
 Cypress
 Cotoneaster
 Euonymus
 Fir
 Hemlock
 Holly
 Juniper
 Potentilla
 Spice bush
 Spruce
 Yew

Many people think of pruning only in connection with a shrub or tree that has grown too big for the spot where it is planted. Pruning can also rejuvenate older shrubs, encourage flowers or fruiting and increase the overall vigor of plants. The time of year you decide to prune should be given some consideration. Pruning in the wrong season can decrease flower or fruit production. It can also be harmful to a plants recovery.

The general rule is to remove no more than 1/3 of the plants total growth in a one year period. If a shrub or tree is severely overgrown, it is sometimes better to prune it back over a two or three year period rather than all at once. As with anything, there are always exceptions to the rules so it is best to check with the professionals for specific questions.

General Pruning Tips

Make your cuts at a slight angle about 1/4 inch above the bud. Never leave a long stub above the bud. Make the cut leaving the bud pointing in the direction you want the new growth to grow.

Certain trees like maple, dogwood, birch and elm bleed sap if cut in spring. It is best to trim in late fall or winter

Most fruit trees and grapes are pruned in late winter. Keep an open framework of branches so that light can reach all the fruit.

Blueberries need not be trimmed for the first four years. After that, remove the oldest wood to open up the plant.

Red raspberries either fruit once in the summer or twice in summer and fall (ever-bearing varieties) Cut old canes of summer-bearers right after harvest and thin ever-bearers in the winter.