

When to Prune Common Landscape Plants?

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PLANT NAME:	BEST TIME TO PRUNE:	OKAY TIME TO PRUNE:	COMMENTS:
Shade Trees	Late winter into early spring	Any other time of year, but refrain from pruning in mid to late spring during active spring growth as the wood is tender and tearing damage may occur. Refrain from pruning in the fall as decay organisms are prevalent and there is an increased chance of decay entering the pruning wounds.	Maple, birch & walnut ooze sap profusely if pruned in late winter/early spring. This oozing does not hurt the tree, but it can be prevented by pruning these trees in early summer.
Small Flowering Trees	Late winter into early spring	Same as for shade trees.	
Pine (Pinus genus)	June into July - when the new growth ("candles") are fully elongated, but not yet open.		If pruned too early, too many buds will develop and subsequent years growth will be deformed. If pruned too late, the pine tree or shrub will be stunted. Pruning cuts should be made on current years growth (candles). Pruning into 2-year old wood (last years growth) delays bud formation for one year.
Spruce (Picea genus)	Late winter into early spring	Between November 1 and April 1.	Pruning of spruce is rarely needed. If entire branches need to be removed due to damage or branch death, do this at any time of the year.
Fir (Abies genus)	Late winter into early spring	Between November 1 and April 1 for shaping	Pruning of firs is rarely needed. If entire branches need to be removed due to damage or death, do this at any time of the year.
Junipers and Arborvitae	Early spring ideal so pruning cuts quickly covered by new growth	Between November 1 and April 1 ideal, but these can be pruned at any time of the year	
Deciduous shrubs	Depends on their blooming season - see next page for specifics.	Any time of year.	If renovating a shrub, i.e. removing over half of the height or pruning it all the way to the ground), do this when the shrub is dormant in winter.
Spring blooming shrubs and	Immediately following spring	Any time of year	Spring blooming shrubs and vines develop

vines (i.e. lilac, forsythia, some dogwoods, some spireas, spring blooming clematis, oakleaf hydrangea (H. quercifolia), Garden or Bigleaf Hydrangea (H. macrophylla), mockorange, currants, gooseberries, spring blooming viburnums, Weigela, yucca, etc.)	blooming		their flower buds in the fall. Pruning them before they bloom in spring results in the removal of flower buds and a reduction in blossoms.
Summer blooming shrubs (i.e. rose of sharon hibiscus, potentilla, summer blooming spireas such as "Little Princess", summer blooming Viburnums, Hydrangea paniculata, smooth hydrangea (H. arborescens), Hypericum (St. Johnswort), honeysuckle, flowering quince, trumpet creeper vine; and, shrubs with non-showy flowers (i.e. barberry, privet, cotoneaster, deciduous euonymous, tall-hedge buckthorn, sumac, etc.	Late winter into early spring	Any time of year. Shrubs grown for hedges can be trimmed all summer.	Summer blooming shrubs and vines develop flower buds on new spring growth.
Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora & Floribunda Roses	Early spring after winter protection is removed.	The height can be lowered in fall if needed to fit beneath a protective device.	Do not prune from August 1 through October as this can delay dormancy.
Climbing Roses	Prune ramblers & vigorous climbers after they bloom. Prune hybrid and ever-blooming large flower climbers in late winter/early spring.		
Old-fashioned or Species roses	After they bloom.		