



## A Guide to Successful Pruning

# Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar

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### Comments:

1. Avoid pruning in late winter/early spring due to sap flow (more cosmetic than detrimental).
2. Avoid pruning from spring through summer due to insect or disease problems.
3. Avoid pruning from October - December due to reduced cold hardiness.
4. Avoid pruning after July because flower buds have set.
5. These trees are not recommended due to their invasive nature.
6. Topping or “crape murder” is not a recommended or acceptable pruning practice at any time.

= Best time to prune  
 = Do not prune except to correct damage, hazards or structural defects  
 Where no or timing is not critical

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Alder													
Ash													
Bald Cypress													
Beech													
Birch													1,2
Black Gum, Black Tupelo													
Buckeye													4
Catalpa													
Cherry, flowering													4
Chestnut, Chinese													
Crabapple, ornamental													4
Crape Myrtle													3,6
Dogwood													4
Elm													1,2
Fringe Tree													4
Ginkgo													

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Golden Rain Tree										☞	☞	☞	
Hackberry													2
Hawthorn						☞	☞						4
Hickory													
Honeylocust									☞	☞			
Horse Chestnut					☞	☞	☞						4
Japanese Pagoda Tree, Scholar Tree													4
Katsura													
Linden, Basswood								☞	☞	☞			
Magnolia, Tulip Tree					☞	☞	☞						4
Maple					☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	1, 2
Mimosa													5
Mountain Ash, Rowan													
Mulberry													
Oak											☞	☞	2
Peach, flowering						☞	☞						4
Pear, flowering						☞	☞						4
Plum, flowering and purple						☞	☞						4
Poplar										☞	☞	☞	1
Redbud					☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Serviceberry					☞	☞	☞						4
Sourwood										☞	☞	☞	
Stewartia	☞											☞	
Sweetgum													
Sycamore, Plane Tree													
Tulip Tree, Tulip Poplar													
Willow													1
Zelkova													

**Exception:** Timing varies across USDA climate zones - zones within Virginia range from 8a in the Virginia Beach area to 5b along the West Virginia border.

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