



A Guide to Successful Pruning Shrub Pruning Calendar

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Comments:

1. Flowers are produced on new (current season) wood
2. Flowers are produced on wood from past season, pruning while dormant will reduce flowers
3. Make pruning cuts well below diseased wood (fire blight) – disinfect pruners between cuts
4. Remove old stems to ground yearly to renew
5. Midseason shear if a formal hedge is desired
6. Do not cut into old wood that has no leaves or needles
7. Spring/summer prune to remove azalea caterpillars and galls
8. Fall/early winter pruning can reduce winter hardiness
9. Snap candles (new growth) in half when needles are 1/2 to 2/3 their normal mature length
10. On Virginia's invasive species list



= 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
Abelia	☞	☞									☞	☞	1, 4
Almond, Flowering					☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Arborvitae	☞	☞	☞			☞	☞				☞	☞	6
Aucuba			☞	☞	☞								2
Azalea, deciduous					☞	☞	☞						2
Azalea, evergreen					☞	☞	☞						2, 7
Barberry, deciduous				☞	☞	☞	☞						2, 4, 10
Barberry, evergreen				☞	☞	☞	☞						2, 4

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Bayberry			☞	☞	☞	☞							
Beautyberry	☞	☞	☞								☞	☞	1
Beautybush (Kolkwitzia)						☞	☞						2, 4
Boxwood	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5
Broom (Cytisus)						☞	☞						2
Butterfly bush			☞	☞									1
Camellia, Japanese				☞	☞	☞							2
Camellia, Sasanqua			☞	☞	☞								1
Chastetree (Vitex)	☞	☞	☞										1
Cherrylaurel (Prunus)	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5
Clethra, Summersweet	☞	☞	☞								☞	☞	1
Cotoneaster, deciduous	☞	☞									☞	☞	3
Cotoneaster, evergreen	☞	☞									☞	☞	3
Crape Myrtle	☞	☞	☞										1, 8
Daphne, Fragrant or Winter				☞	☞	☞	☞						2
Deutzia					☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Dogwood, Redtwig			☞	☞									1, 4
Eleagnus, Thorny	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	10
Euonymus, deciduous	☞	☞	☞								☞	☞	10
Euonymus, evergreen	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5
Forsythia				☞	☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Fothergilla					☞	☞	☞						2
Gardenia	☞	☞									☞	☞	1
Harry Lauder's Walking Stick					☞	☞	☞						2
Hibiscus, Rose-of-Sharon, Althea	☞	☞	☞								☞	☞	1
Holly, deciduous			☞	☞									1
Holly, evergreen		☞	☞										2, 5
Honeysuckle, Shrub, Amur					☞	☞	☞						2, 4, 5, 10
Hydrangea, spring-blooming						☞	☞						2
Hydrangea, summer-blooming	☞	☞	☞										1

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Hypericum, St. Johnswort	☞	☞	☞										1
Indian Hawthorn (Raphiolepis)					☞	☞	☞						2
Jasmine, Winter				☞	☞	☞	☞						2
Juniper	☞	☞	☞								☞	☞	6
Kerria (Japanese Rose)						☞	☞						2, 4
Leucothoe						☞	☞						4
Lilac						☞	☞						2, 4
Loropetalum, Chinese Fringe Flower				☞	☞								
Mahonia, Leatherleaf					☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Mockorange						☞	☞						2, 4
Mountain Laurel (Kalmia)						☞	☞						2
Nandina	☞	☞	☞										1, 4
Osmanthus, Fragrant Tea Olive	☞	☞				☞					☞	☞	1, 5
Pearlbush						☞	☞						2
Photinia	☞	☞			☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5
Pieris, Japanese Andromeda					☞	☞	☞						2
Pine, Mugo	☞			☞	☞	☞						☞	9
Pittosporum		☞	☞	☞	☞								
Privet, deciduous (Ligustrum)	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5, 10
Privet, evergreen (Ligustrum)	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5
Potentilla, Cinquefoil	☞	☞	☞							☞	☞	☞	1, 4
Pyracantha, Firethorn						☞	☞						2, 3
Quince, flowering				☞	☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Rhododendron						☞	☞						2
Rose		☞	☞				☞	☞					1, 3, 4
Serviceberry				☞	☞	☞							
Smoke Tree	☞	☞									☞	☞	1
Spirea, spring-blooming					☞	☞							2
Spirea, summer-blooming	☞	☞											1
Sumac	☞	☞	☞					☞	☞	☞	☞	☞	1, 4

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Sweetshrub, Carolina Allspice							☞	☞					1
Viburnum, deciduous					☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Viburnum, evergreen					☞	☞							2
Weigela					☞	☞	☞						2, 4
Willow, Pussy				☞	☞	☞	☞						2
Witchhazel				☞	☞	☞	☞						2
Yew	☞	☞	☞		☞	☞	☞				☞	☞	5

Exceptions:

- Timing varies across USDA climate zones - zones within Virginia range from 8a in the Virginia Beach area to 5b along the West Virginia border
- Prune anytime to correct vandalism damage and hazards created by equipment or weather
- Hedges maintained formally (tight shapes) require more pruning than hedges maintained informally (in their natural form)
- For boxwoods, if not shearing, follow pruning guidelines from the American Boxwood Society

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