



Riverview Garden Club Helpful Hints



February 2018

Are you looking for year-round interesting plants with flowers, foliage, form, and fruit—the four Fs? Fruit is often overlooked as a garden design element. Fruit can give wildlife needed nutrition in the middle of winter with outstanding colors of red, orange, pink, white, blue, and purple.

To obtain good berry production on shrubs and trees you have to prune at the right time, which has to be timed with the formation of the plant's flower buds. A general rule is that trees and shrubs that bloom in spring on last year's growth should be pruned when their flowers fade. Those that bloom in mid to late summer or fall on current year's growth should be pruned in winter or early spring.

Listed below are a few fruit bearing trees or shrubs and when to prune to obtain maximum fruit. Remember pruning can be done at any time if needed, but you may be removing the new year's flowers and fruit.

American Holly *Ilex opaca* – red drupe fruit—prune in late winter or early spring

Beautyberry *Callicarpa americana* – bright violet /magenta berry-- prune in late winter or early spring

Crabapple *Malus* spp.-- yellow/orange/green/red pome fruit--prune if necessary to maintain shape in late winter or early spring

Coralberry *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*-- coral/red drupe fruit--prune in late winter or early spring

Dogwood *Cornus florida*—red berry fruit—prune if necessary in late fall or winter when dormant

Firethorn *Pyracantha coccinea* – red/orange pome fruit -- prune in late summer if established by cutting back any wayward stems to the developing berry trusses still allowing plenty of berries to remain on the shrubs

Shadblow Serviceberry *Amelanchier canadensis*-- red/purple berries -- prune immediately after flowering

Winterberry *Ilex verticillata*—red berry fruit—prune in late winter or early spring

--Sandy