

Pruning Shrubs

Prune in March if blooms in summer and fall

If a plant blooms in the summer and fall, it blooms on *new wood* (current year's growth). Prune in the early spring; its best to prune before the plant leafs out. It is important that you do this, as you only get abundant flowers and fruit on the new wood. If you don't prune, the plant will get leggy and unproductive.

Barberry
Chokeberry
Purple leaf Sandcherry
Dogwood
Hydrangea
Ninebark
Potentilla
Rose
Viburnum
Smokebush
Spirea
Willow

Prune in May-June if blooms in spring

If a plant blooms in the spring (February through June), it blooms on *old wood* (last year's growth). It sets up its buds the previous year. Prune right after blooming; you have a window of 4-6 weeks to prune the plant before the new buds are set. A good rule of thumb is to have pruning done by the 4th of July.

Lilac
Rhododendron
Weigela
Serviceberry
Mockorange
Forsythia
Fothergilla
Hydrangea Endless Summer varieties

Prune in May by Shearing

With a sharp hedge trimmer, shear back 1" to 3" of new growth. Do not shear deeper than the green on the branch. Keep the shape of the plant in mind, stepping back occasionally to make sure you are maintaining that shape.

Yew
Boxwood