

# SHRUB PRUNING CALENDAR

		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Prune after flowering (early blooming or flowers on year-old wood)	Chaenomeles (flowering quince)												
	Chimonanthus (wintersweet)												
	Deutzia (deutzia)												
	Forsythia (forsythia)												
	Fothergilla (witch alder)												
	Hydrangea macrophylla (big leaf hydrangea)												
	Hydrangea quercifolia (oak leaf hydrangea)												
	Kolkwitzia (beautybush)												
	Rhododendron (rhododendrons and azaleas)												
	Salix (pussy willows)												
	Syringa (lilacs)												
	Viburnum (viburnum)												
	Weigela (weigela)												
Prune early (before flowering)	Abelia (glossy abelia)												
	Callicarpa (beautyberry)												
	Clethra (summersweet)												
	Cotinus (smoke tree)												
	Hibiscus (hibiscus, rose of Sharon)												
	Hydrangea paniculata (PeeGee hydrangea)												
	Ilex (holly)												
Plants that rarely need pruning:	Calycanthus* (Carolina allspice)												
	Daphne (daphne)												
	Fothergilla* (witch alder)												
	Hamamelis (witch hazel)												
	Mahonia (Oregon grape)												
	Pieris (pieris, andromeda)												
	Rhododendron* (rhododendron)												
* If you decide to prune these plants, adhere to the recommended pruning schedule in the two top tables.													

## 5 Pruning Tips:

1. When pruning shrubs, first remove any dead or dying branches. Cut between the diseased spot and the body of the plant. Then remove the oldest, tallest growth first and then take out weak or spindly stems. Prune branches which rub or cross each other or branches that are growing vertically (cutting the smaller branch). You can also take off really low branches.
2. Prune back to the main stem, cutting the branch close to the source. Don't let stubs stick out; this invites disease.
3. Cut at the same angle as the branch collar—the furrow of bark where branch and trunk meet. If you've done it right, a circle of healthy callus will eventually swell around the spot.
4. Never prune if it's damp or wet out; this spreads many diseases. Wait for a dry day.
5. Always clean your tools with hot, soapy water to avoid spreading disease. If you cut off a diseased branch, clean it before moving on to the next tree. You can also disinfect the tools by using just a teaspoon or two of bleach in warm water.

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