

Pro Landscapers Care Guide to Your New Landscape.



Plant Pruning

Pruning plants is critical for plant health and performance

Regular pruning throughout the growing season is done to harvest flowers, remove dead or diseased foliage or branches, and to allow light penetration and air flow to the interior of the plant. Pruning should always be done with a clean cutting blade to prevent the transfer of disease.

- Prune selectively to maintain the shape of a plant with hand pruners. Cut just above the branch crotch or dormant bud.
- Prune any crossing or rubbing branches.
- Suckering branches should be pruned from the bottom of the tree.

Perennials

Foliage should be removed from perennials after die-back. Cut the dead foliage to the ground. It is recommended that dead perennial foliage be cut to the ground early spring, before the new foliage emerges.

Evergreen

Prune anytime during the spring and summer months, but do not prune after July 15. During the growing season, Pine should be pruned before the new growth has opened and become woody (usually early May).

When to Prune:

After Flowering / Spring-flowering deciduous shrubs

Spring flowering Shrubs flower on old wood. Prune to shape after they have flowered.

Examples include: Spirea (Snowmound, Arugula, Vanhoutte, Fairy Queen), Viburnum, Serviceberry, Rhododendron, Azalea, Plum, Forsythia, Honeysuckle, Lilac, Chokecherry

Early Spring / Summer flowering deciduous shrubs

These shrubs flower on new growth. They should be pruned in late Winter or early Spring.

Examples include: Barberry, Buckeye, Currant, Dogwood, Fir, Ginko, Hydrangea (depending on variety), Ninebark, Rose, Snowberry, Spirea (Anthony Waterer, Goldflame), Spruce, Sumac, Weigela

Winter / Dormant

Winter is a great time to prune because the plant is dormant. Most trees should be pruned during the winter months. Pruning in the winter also helps prevent the spread of disease and infection.

Examples include: Apple, Crabapple, Ash, Aspen, Birch, Cherry, Coffeetree, Elm, Hackberry, Linden, Locust, Maple, Oak, Cotoneaster.

****Rule of Thumb**** “If it flowers before June 1st, prune immediately after flowering. If it flowers after June 1st, prune between November 1st and March 30th.”

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