

## WHEN TO PRUNE DECIDUOUS FLOWERING SHRUBS

The best time to prune flowering shrubs depends in part on whether the plants bear their flowers on "old wood" or "new wood" and whether or not fruits are desired.

Plants that produce buds and flowers on new wood, growth produced during the current season, should be pruned before, or as, new growth begins in the spring. Flower and fruit displays will not be diminished unless large portions of the plant are removed. Plants in this group are usually summer flowering.

Shrubs that produce flower buds on old wood, 1 – 2 years or older growth, are usually pruned directly after flowering. If pruned before flowering, the flower buds, formed the previous year, are removed and the flower display is lessened. Pruning right after flowering is finished permits ample time for new growth and new flower buds to form during the rest of the growing season, so they are ready to bloom the following year. Of course, pruning at this time will remove fruit, which may be desired later in the season. Usually, plants in this group are spring flowering, although there are some important exceptions.

An alternative time to prune is when the plants are dormant, preferably in late winter or early spring. Although pruning at this time will remove flower buds, there is an advantage: the plants can be analyzed easily while they are leafless to decide what portions should be removed. Branches removed from early flowering shrubs at this time can be forced into bloom indoors. Rejuvenation of old shrubs, ones that have become too dense, too large, top heavy, or poor bloomers, should be done in late winter or early spring by cutting old stems back hard to, or near, the ground. Some shrubs do not renew themselves readily from the base and should not be pruned hard. In this group are Fothergilla, Magnolia, Daphne and Witch Hazel. If radical pruning is done later in the growing season when plants are in leaf, the plant loses a large percentage of its food reserves and may be damaged. On the other hand, summer thinning can be used to curb the growth rate by slowing subsequent growth. Pruning after mid-August is not advised because it may stimulate soft new growth that will be winter-killed.

### PLANTS THAT FLOWER ON NEW GROWTH

#### Prune in Spring

Annabelle Hydrangea	Horse Chestnut	St. John's Wort
Bush Honeysuckle	Peegee Hydrangea	Sumac
Butterfly bush	Potentilla	Summersweet
Caryopteris	Rose of Sharon	Tamarisk
Clematis (varieties)	Roses	Trumpet Vine
False Spirea	Smokebush	
Honeysuckle	Spirea (late flowering species)	

### PLANTS THAT FLOWER ON OLD GROWTH

#### Prune after flowering

Alpine Currant	Forsythia	Prunus – Cherry, Peach & Plum
Bayberry	Genista	Purpleleaf Sandcherry
Beauty Bush	Hydrangea macrophylla	Pussy Willow
Bridalwreath Spirea	Honeysuckle	Pryacantha – Firethorn
Buddleia alternifolia	Kalmia	Quince
Chokeberry	Kerria	Red Bud
Common Seabuckthorn	Laburnum	Rosa – old fashioned hedge
Coralberry	Lilac	Rose Acacia
Cornelian Cherry	Magnolia	Rhododendron / Azalea
Cotoneaster	Mahonia	Serviceberry
Crabapple	Mock Orange	Siberian Pea Tree
Daphne	Mulberry	Snowberry
Deutzia	Ninebark	Spirea (varieties)
Dogwood	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Stephanandra
Elder	Ornamental Currant	Sweetspire
Enkianthus	Ornamental Pear	Viburnum
Euonymus	Pea Shrub	Weigela
Flowering Almond	Pearl Bush	Witch Hazel
Flowering Quince	Pieris	Wisteria
Fothergilla	Privet	