

Hypericum, Bluebeard Spirea and Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) may experience dieback in severe winters. Prune off dead twigs on these shrubs in the spring after new growth starts.

Potentilla and Spirea do best when pruned annually. To keep plants looking full and bushy, remove about 1/3 of the stems to the ground and then trim the entire plant back by 1/3 in late winter or early spring. A light trimming of a few inches after they flower will usually provide a new display of flowers in a few weeks.

Althea (Rose of Sharon) are one of the last shrubs to leaf out, often not showing growth until late May or early June. Be careful to wait until growth appears before pruning. Pruning too early may remove branches that are in fact alive.

Trees

Trees are best shaped while young, as the branches are smaller, and pruning at this time leaves smaller wounds that heal quicker, minimizing the chances for disease or insect damage of the wound. Once established, they need minimum care to maintain their beauty. It is important to develop a good branching habit in a young tree. Prune to develop one central leader and branches that have wide angles where they join the trunk. The closer the lateral branches are to 90°, the stronger the attachment at the branch. Narrow angled branches tend to break in storms. (See diagrams back page)

For most trees, pruning should be completed before growth begins in spring. Some species, (Maple & Birch), tend to bleed sap from their pruning wounds. This will not harm the tree, but is unsightly. To prevent bleeding of sap, prune these trees in late spring to early summer. Remember that wounds made after July do not heal well for the remainder of that season. Heavy pruning of Japanese Maples, unlike other types of Maples, should be done during the dormant season; just prior to bud break and leaf formation.

Oak trees should **only** be pruned from November to March. This is a protection against the spread of Oak Wilt. The insects that spread Oak Wilt are attracted to the sap of these trees, so pruning when dormant helps to stop the spread of this disease.

Fruit Trees and Small Fruit

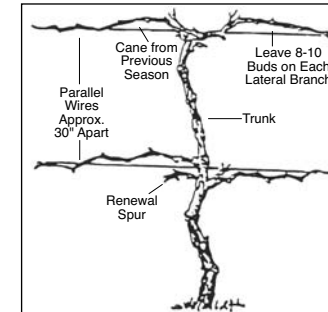
Trees that are grown for their fruit need to be pruned carefully or you will reduce or eliminate the size of your fruit crop. Apple, Pear and Cherry trees need only a light pruning while dormant to remove water sprouts (rapidly growing, vertical shoots), damaged branches and twigs. The fruit is produced on short, slow growing spurs of the branches.

Peaches and Nectarines, however, grow vigorously and need more pruning to prevent fruit from over-loading the branches and causing breakage. These trees produce their fruit on the previous summer's growth, so never remove all the new growth or you will not have any fruit the following season.

Apricots and Plums are fast growers like the Peaches, but they produce their fruit on spurs similar to Apples. New branches that are too long or straggly can be completely removed on these trees. However, leaving some new growth increases the number of spurs for fruit production.

Do not remove any main branches on 3-in-1 or 5-in-1 special fruit trees as you may be removing an entire variety from the tree.

Annual pruning is necessary for good fruit production on grapes. Grapes should be pruned when dormant, between December and late March. Grapes are usually trained in the "double T" method leaving 8-10 buds on each of the 4 stems. (see diagram)



The fruit of most raspberries form on side shoots along canes (stems) that grew the year before. Remove canes after they have born fruit, leaving the newer canes, as they will be the fruiting canes for next year. Blueberries need to be thinned by 1/3 to 1/2 each year in order to maintain larger fruits. Pruning should be done in early spring. To help ensure good fruit production, be sure to check out the organic products available at the Garden Store.

Evergreens

In general, most evergreens need very little pruning. It is important to choose the correct size evergreen for its location when planning a landscape, as it is nearly impossible to correct an overgrown evergreen by pruning.

Spruces and Firs can be trimmed while young to produce a fuller tree by trimming the new growth by 1/3 to 1/2. This should be done after the new growth has hardened off in July. More severe pruning can be done by cutting back into last year's growth, just be sure to make the cut above a side branch or bud.