

PRUNING DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

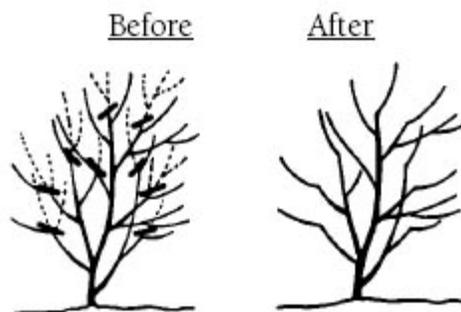
The objectives of pruning shrubs are to maintain vigor, remove damaged or diseased branches, help maintain the natural size and shape of a plant, and improve flowering and fruiting. There are four basic pruning techniques used for maintaining shrubs: heading back, renewal, rejuvenation, and shearing.

TIME TO PRUNE

A general rule-of-thumb is that shrubs that bear flower buds on the previous year's growth should be pruned after spring flowering. Some examples are forsythia, mockorange, and lilac. Shrubs that bloom on the current year's wood should be pruned in early spring before bud break. Among these are St. John's wort, cinquefoil, and snowberry. This rule does not apply when doing rejuvenation pruning.

HEADING BACK

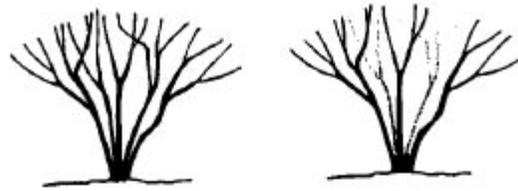
Heading back is used to control the size of the shrub or to remove a branch that is out of balance with the rest of the plant. It requires that a branch be removed to a good bud or lateral branch instead of being cut to the ground. Heading back is best done when new growth is complete.



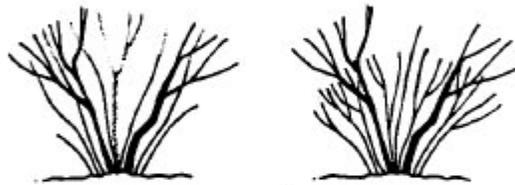
REJUVENATION

Some old, neglected shrubs can be restored to vigor by pruning all stems or canes to ground level. Among those that respond well to this treatment are: forsythia, weigela, privet, honeysuckle, spirea, and hydrangea. Rejuvenation pruning is best done in late winter or early spring.

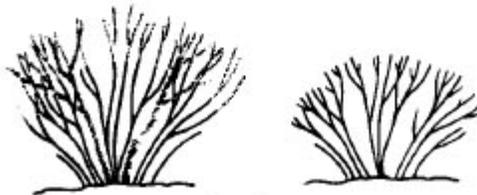
RENEWAL Renewal is the removal of old, overgrown stems or canes. This is usually done over a period of three to four years, and 1/3 of the stems are removed each time. It is best done during the dormant season. This results in a more vigorous shrub and, in the case of flowering ornamentals, better flowering.



First year



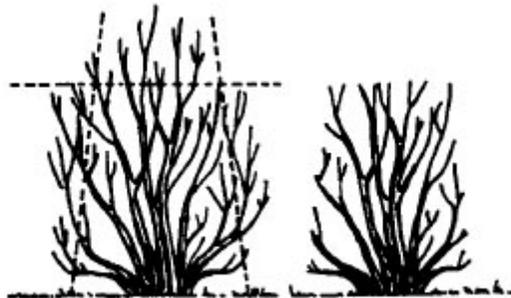
Second year



Third year

SHEARING

Shearing is done only when a formal hedge is desired. When shearing, it is important to keep the top of the hedge narrower than the base to allow sunlight to reach the lower branches. The best time to shear is when new growth is complete.



GUIDELINES FOR PRUNING COMMON DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Common Name	Scientific Name	How & When To Prune
Almond, flowering	<i>Prunus glandulosa</i>	renewal prune after flowering to encourage new growth
Barberry, Japanese	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	shear, thin out oldest wood, or rejuvenate in early spring
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	renewal, heading-back, or rejuvenate in early spring
Beautybush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	renewal, heading-back, or rejuvenate after flowering
Bluebeard, Blue spiraea	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	top dies back to ground in harsh winters; flowers on new wood; rejuvenate in early spring
Buckthorn, tallhedge	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>	selective pruning to control shape using heading-back method; does not do well when sheared
Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleia</i> species	flowers on new wood, rejuvenate in early spring
Cherry, purple sand	<i>Prunus x cistena</i>	renewal prune after flowering
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia</i> species	occasional renewal pruning in late winter or early spring
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla</i> species	thin out oldest stems, clip to keep in shape
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> species	shape plant as needed by heading-back; renewal prune in spring
Currant, alpine	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	shear as hedge; prune in late spring after new growth matures; rejuvenate in early spring
Deutzia	<i>Deutzia gracilis</i>	rejuvenate as needed; head-back and renewal after flowering
Dogwood, gray	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	head-back and renewal prune as needed; late fall or early spring
Dogwood, red-osier	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	renewal prune every year for brighter stem color in early spring; rejuvenate over-grown shrubs
Euonymus, evergreen	<i>Euonymus (fortunei)</i>	prune anytime between February and mid-summer; major reshaping should be done before new growth begins in the spring
Euonymus, deciduous	<i>Euonymus (alatus)</i>	prune in late winter or early spring; renewal or heading-back method
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	prune in late spring after flowers; use renewal and heading-back method; rejuvenate over-grown plants in early spring
Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	dwarf and standard form can be pruned in late spring after flowers
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	as a shrub, prune after flowering; as a tree, prune unwanted stems
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera</i> species	shrub honeysuckles respond well to all types of pruning in early spring or after flowers
Hydrangea, bigleaf	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	flowers on last year's wood; prune after blooms (early August) to 6- to 8-inches; thin out old weak stems
Hydrangea, hills-of-snow	<i>H. arborescens</i> 'Grandiflora'	flowers on new wood; requires severe pruning in spring; cut back last year's stems to within 2 buds of the ground, just after growth begins

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Hydrangea, oakleaf	<i>H. quercifolia</i>	renewal prune after flowers fade
Kerria, Japanese	<i>Kerria japonica</i>	flowers on old wood; renewal prune older stems to ground to improve flowers; after flowering, remove some new wood for best stem color
Lilac, common	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	renewal prune after flowering; rejuvenate old shrubs in early spring
Lilac, Persian	<i>Syringa persica</i>	flowers on old wood; prune after flowering
Mockorange	<i>Philadelphus</i> species	flowers on old wood; renewal prune after flowering; rejuvenate in early spring
Privet	<i>Ligustrum</i> species	prune from late winter through summer; can be sheared
Quince, flowering	<i>Chaenomeles</i> species	renewal pruning after flowering, rejuvenation prune in early spring
Rhododendron, Azalea	<i>Rhododendron</i>	little pruning is needed; renewal prune when dormant
Rose	<i>Rosa</i> species	roses may be pruned lightly or cut to the ground every year; climbers and ramblers: blooms in early summer on old wood, prune after flowering, leave new growth for next year; hybrid bush-type: flowers on new wood, remove dead canes and cut back in spring; shrub roses: prune out old, diseased, or unwanted canes in spring, head-back after flowering
Rose-of-Sharon	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	flowers on new wood; renewal prune to stimulate new growth at base
Snowberry, Coralberry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> species	renewal prune in early spring; rejuvenate older plant
Spicebush	<i>Calycanthus</i> species	renewal prune to keep in shape; after flowering or in early spring
Spirea	<u>summer-flowering</u> <i>Spiraea x bumalda</i> <i>Spiraea japonica</i>	flowers in summer on new wood; prune in early spring before plants leaf out; rejuvenate every two or three years in early spring
Spirea	<u>spring-flowering</u> <i>Spiraea prunifolia</i> <i>S. vanhouttei</i>	flowers on old wood; renewal prune after flowering; shearing will remove flowerbuds; over-grown plants may be rejuvenated
Viburnum, many	<i>Viburnum</i> species	renewal pruning and heading-back after flowering; older plants can be rejuvenated in late winter or early spring
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	thin old growth to rejuvenate; heading-back in late spring
Weigela	<i>Weigela</i> hybrids	prune after flowering; renewal prune and light heading-back to keep in balance; can be rejuvenated
Witch hazel	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	flowers on old wood; renewal pruning and heading-back after flowering; can be rejuvenated
	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	flowers on new wood; prune in early spring