

Pruning Deciduous Shrubs

The Morton Arboretum

Common Name	Scientific Name	Method & When To Prune
Almond, flowering	<i>Prunus glandulosa</i>	prune after flowering (renewal or heading-back); flowers on old wood
Allspice, Carolina	<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	prune after flowering or in early spring (renewal or heading-back); flowers mostly on old wood, but can also flower on new wood
Barberry, Japanese	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	prune in late winter/early spring (shear, thin, or rejuvenate); flowers on old wood. Considered invasive, planting is discouraged.
Bayberry	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	prune in late winter/early spring (renewal or heading-back annually or rejuvenate when needed); flowers on old wood
Beautybush	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>	prune after flowering (renewal or heading-back annually or rejuvenate when needed); flowers on old wood
Bluebeard, Blue spirea	<i>Caryopteris x clandonensis</i>	rejuvenate annually in late winter/early spring; top dies back to ground in harsh winters; flowers on new wood
Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleia</i> species	rejuvenate annually in late winter/early spring; flowers on new wood
Cherry, purple sand	<i>Prunus x cistena</i>	prune after flowering (heading-back); flowers on old wood
Chokeberry	<i>Aronia</i> species	prune after flowering (renewal or heading-back); flowers on old wood
Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla</i> species	prune in late winter/early spring (renewal); flowers on new wood
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster</i> species	Prune after flowering (heading-back or renewal); flowers on old wood
Currant, alpine	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	prune in late spring after new growth matures; rejuvenate in early spring when needed; flowers on old wood
Deutzia	<i>Deutzia gracilis</i>	prune after flowering (heading-back and renewal); rejuvenate when needed; flowers on old wood
Dogwood, gray	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Prune late winter/early fall (heading back or renewal); flowers on old wood
Dogwood, red-osier	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	prune late winter/early spring to stimulate new, colorful stems (renewal); can rejuvenate; flowers on old wood

Euonymus, burning bush	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	prune in late winter/early spring (renewal or heading-back); flowers on old wood. Considered invasive, planting is discouraged.
Euonymus, wintercreeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	prune anytime between February and mid-summer (heading back); flowers on old wood
Forsythia	<i>Forsythia x intermedia</i>	prune in late spring after flowers (renewal and heading-back); rejuvenate when needed; flowers on old wood
Fothergilla	<i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>	prune in late spring after flowers (heading-back); flowers on old wood
Fringetree	<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	as a shrub remove unwanted stems; as a tree prune in early spring (heading-back); flowers on old wood
Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera species</i>	all honeysuckles respond well to all types of pruning in early spring or after flowers
Hydrangea, bigleaf	<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i>	prune after bloom (heading-back); flowers on last year's wood, although some new cultivars also bloom on new wood;
Hydrangea, oakleaf	<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	prune after flowering (heading-back); flowers on old wood; minimal pruning required
Hydrangea, panicked	<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	prune in late winter/early spring (heading-back); flowers on new wood
Hydrangea, wild	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	Prune severely in late winter/early spring; cut back last year's stems to within 2 buds of the ground just after growth begins; flowers on new wood
Kerria, Japanese	<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Renewal prune older stems to ground after flowering; flowers mostly on old wood, but can also flower on new growth
Lilac, common	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	prune after flowering (renewal); rejuvenate old shrubs in late winter/early spring as needed; flowers on old wood
Lilac, Persian	<i>Syringa x persica</i>	prune after flowering (renewal); flowers on old wood
Mockorange	<i>Philadelphus species</i>	prune after flowering; rejuvenate in late winter/early spring; flowers on old wood
Privet	<i>Ligustrum species</i>	prune from late winter through summer; can be sheared; flowers on old wood (considered invasive, planting is discouraged)
Quince, flowering	<i>Chaenomeles species</i>	prune after flowering (renewal or heading-back); rejuvenation prune in early spring; flowers on old wood

Rhododendron, azalea	<i>Rhododendron</i> species	little pruning is needed; renewal prune when dormant
Rose	<i>Rosa</i> species	climbers and ramblers: bloom 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>	Prune in late winter/early spring (renewal or heading back); flowers on new wood
Snow berry	<i>Symphoricarpos</i> species	prune in late winter/early spring (renewal); rejuvenate older plants as needed; flowers on new wood
Spirea, spring flowering	<i>Spiraea prunifolia</i> , <i>S. vanhouttei</i>	prune after flowering (renewal); flowers on old wood; over-grown plants may be rejuvenated
Spirea, summer flowering	<i>Spiraea x bumalda</i> <i>Spiraea japonica</i>	prune in late winter/early spring before they leaf out; flowers in summer on new wood; rejuvenate as needed in early spring
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum</i> species	prune after flowering (renewal or heading-back); flowers on old wood
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	prune in late winter/early spring (heading back); flowers on new wood
Weigela	<i>Weigela</i> hybrids	prune after flowering (renewal heading-back); can be rejuvenated; flowers on old wood
Witch hazel, Common	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	prune in early spring (renewal or heading-back); flowers on new wood; can be rejuvenated
Witch hazel, Vernal	<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	prune after flowering (renewal or heading-back); flowers on old wood; can be rejuvenated