

Deciduous Shrub Pruning Chart

By Lisa Johnson, Dane County Extension Horticulture Educator, 9/07, Revised 10/19

Botanical Name	Common Name	Pruning Time	Thinning	Rejuvenation	Heading Back	Shearing	Comments
<i>Aesculus parviflora</i>	Bottlebrush buckeye	Dormant prune	X				Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Aronia spp.</i>	Chokeberry	After flowering in spring	X	X			Spring bloomer, suckers heavily
<i>Berberis thunbergia</i>	Japanese barberry	Dormant prune	X			X	Fruits unwanted. Some cultivars on DNR invasive list
<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Butterfly bush	Dormant prune		X			Summer or fall bloomer, dies back
<i>Callicarpa americana, C. dichotoma</i>	American Beautyberry, Purple Beautyberry	Dormant prune	X	X recommended to 6-8"			Blooms on new wood in fall. Takes rejuvenation pruning very well
<i>Caragana arborescens</i>	Siberian peashrub	After flowering in spring	X				Spring bloomer
<i>Caryopteris x cladonensis</i>	Bluebeard	Dormant prune		X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Buttonbush	Dormant prune	X		X		Summer or fall bloomer, little pruning needed
<i>Chaenomeles spp.</i>	Flowering quince	After flowering in spring	X		X		Spring bloomer
<i>Chionanthus virginicus</i>	Fringe tree	After flowering in spring	X		X		Spring bloomer, little pruning needed
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet Clethra	Dormant prune			X		Summer or fall bloomer, little pruning needed

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<i>Cornus alba</i> , <i>C. sericea</i> , <i>C. sanguinea</i> , <i>C. racemosa</i> , <i>C. amomum</i>	Tatarian, redosier, bloddtwig, gray and silky dogwoods	Dormant prune	X	X sericea, sanguinea			Summer or fall bloomer, NEVER shear, prune out cankered branches annually on <i>alba</i> , <i>sericea</i> , <i>sanguinea</i>
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Corneliancherry dogwood	After flowering in spring	X		X		Spring bloomer, little pruning needed
<i>Corylus americana</i>	American hazelnut	Dormant prune	X	X	X		Summer or fall bloomer, SUCKERS
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smokebush	Dormant prune	X				Summer or fall bloomer, little pruning needed
<i>Cotoneaster spp.</i>	Cotoneaster	After flowering in spring			X		Spring bloomer
<i>Daphne burkwoodii</i>	Daphne	After flowering in spring			X		Spring bloomer, little pruningneeded
<i>Deutzia spp.</i>	Deutzia	After flowering in spring			X		Spring bloomer
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Bush honeysuckle	Dormant prune	X	X	X		Summer or fall bloomer, suckers!
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Burning bush	Dormant or spring just after leaf expansion if trying to retard growth	X		X	X	Spring bloomer; flowers and fruits inconspicuous
<i>Forsythia spp.</i>	Forsythia	After flowering in spring	X		X		Spring bloomer

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<i>Fothergilla</i> spp.	Fothergilla	After flowering in spring			X		Spring bloomer
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Common woadwaxen	Dormant prune		X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i> and <i>H. x intermedia</i>	Witchhazel	After flowering in spring			X		Spring bloomer
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common witchhazel	Dormant prune			X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Heptacodium miconioides</i>	Seven-son flower	Dormant prune			X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Hibiscus or rose-of-sharon	Dormant prune			X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>H. arborescens</i>	Smooth hydrangea (rounded heads)	Dormant prune fall or early spring	X	X			Blooms on new wood; some also on old wood. Includes Annabelle, Incrediball™, Invincibelle™ Spirit, Bella Anna, etc.
<i>Hydrangea paniculata</i>	Panicle hydrangea (cone-like heads)	Dormant prune lightly fall or early spring, thin later	X		X		Flowers in summer on new wood, deadhead, thin and shape
<i>Hydrangea macrophylla</i> ,	Bigleaf hydrangea (blue or pink round flower heads)	Spring: Don't prune until you see new buds breaking and can ID dead and live wood, cut dead wood to ground	X		X		Summer bloomer. Endless Summer™ somewhat remontant, blooms on mainly old and some new wood. Flower buds on old wood often not hardy—protect for winter for flowers

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<i>Hydrangea quericifolia</i>	Oakleaf hydrangea	After bloom					Little pruning needed. Flowers on old wood, but flower buds often not hardy here, winter protection needed for flowers
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	Kalm St. Johnswort	Dormant prune			X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry holly	Dormant prune	X				Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Japanese kerria	After flowering	X		X		Spring bloomer, may rebloom, young stems green year round.
<i>Kolwitzia amabilis</i>	Beautybush	After flowering	X		X		Spring bloomer
<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Shrub bush-clover	Dormant prune		X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Ligustrum spp.</i>	Privet	Spring after new growth is expanded	X		X	X	
<i>Lonicera x xylosteoides</i> 'Clavey's Dwarf'	Clavey's Dwarf Honeysuckle	After bloom	X		X	X	Spring bloomer
<i>Myrica pennsylvainca</i>	Northern bayberry	Dormant prune	X				Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Philadelphus spp.</i>	Mockorange	After bloom	X		X		Spring bloomer
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	After bloom or Dormant prune	X		X		Spring bloom, but dormant-prune if want to allow fruits

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<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Potentilla	Dormant prune	X	X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Prunus x cistena</i> , <i>Prunus glandulosa</i>	Purple-leaf sandcherry, Dwarf flowering almond	Dormant prune to reduce disease, but removes flowers	X			X	Spring bloomer
<i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>	Scarlet firethorn	Dormant prune			X	X	Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Rhus spp.</i>	Sumacs	Dormant prune	X		X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>		Spring after new growth is expanded	X	X	X	X	Blooms in spring but inconspicuous
<i>Salix spp.</i>	Shrub willows	Dormant	X	X			
<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>	American Elderberry	Dormant prune	X	X	X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	European elderberry	Dormant prune	X	X	X		Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	Ural falsespirea	Dormant prune	X	X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Spiraea japonica</i>	Japanese spirea	Dormant prune	X	X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Stephenandra incise 'Crispa'</i>	Cutleaf stephenandra	Dormant prune					Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Symphoricarpos spp.</i>	Snowberry, coralberry				X		
<i>Syringa patula</i>		After bloom	X		X		Spring bloomer

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<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> , <i>S. x hyacinthaflora</i> , <i>S. x chinensis</i>	Common, early and Chinese lilac	After bloom	X		X		Spring bloomer
<i>Tamarix chinensis</i>	Tamarisk	Dormant prune					Summer or fall bloomer, invasive
<i>Viburnum carlesii</i> , <i>V. juddii</i>		After bloom or dormant prune but this will remove some flowers			X		Spring bloomer
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> , <i>V. trilobum</i> , <i>V. opulus</i> , <i>V. lentago</i> , <i>V. lantana</i> , and <i>V. sargentii</i>	Arrowwood, American and European cranberry-bush viburnums, nannyberry, wayfaringtree viburnum	After bloom or dormant prune but this will remove some flowers	X		X		Spring bloomer
<i>Vitex agnus-castus</i>	Chaste-tree, Vitex	Dormant prune		X			Summer or fall bloomer
<i>Weigela florida</i>	Weigela	After bloom			X		Spring bloomer
<i>Yucca filamentosa</i>	Yucca	Dormant prune					Summer or fall bloomer