



## **Pruning Guidelines for your Plants**

### **Pruning is important:**

- To remove old, diseased parts of the plant
- To make plants more vigorous and dense
- To formalize the outline of the plant
- To maintain the desired size of the plant
- To increase flower and fruit production
- To offset root loss at the time of planting

### **When to Prune:**

1. Spring blooming shrubs are best pruned right after flowering – remember “Pruning after Blooming”
2. Summer blooming shrubs should be pruned during the dormant period since they produce flowers on the current seasons wood (November – March). These shrubs may also be pruned during the summer to touch them up
3. Non-flowering shrubs can be pruned anytime from November to August
4. Shrubs with structure like trees, generally require little pruning. If desired, prune during dormant period, when needed.
5. Winter is a great time for pruning most trees & plants, no leaves, easy to see structure and branches, there will be less mess to clean up.

### **How to Prune:**

1. A general rule in pruning is to remove approximately 1/3 of the plant. Touch up in mid-summer to remove old flower heads and stimulate additional bloom.
2. Renewal prune periodically to maintain or improve shape and/or structure of the plant.
  - Remove oldest, heaviest canes at ground level to stimulate new growth at the base of the plant.
  - Remove only 1/3 to 1/2 of the old canes at a time.
  - Prune back younger canes to about 1/3 to 1/2 their original height to maintain shape.
3. Remove outer tips to increase density and maintain shape. As the plant matures, you may remove some larger canes at ground level to reduce overall size.
4. Perennials and some shrubs may be cut back to approximately 6" at the end of the season.
5. Reshape more structured plants when needed by selectively cutting branches back to major side branches or lateral buds. Remove any crossing or rubbing branches to improve the overall structure of the plant.

### **Tips for Pruning Evergreens:**

**Broadleaf evergreens** can be left to grow naturally or pruned into a desired shape as with a deciduous shrub. Examples: Boxwood, Euonymus, Holly and Rhododendrons

**Yews** Prune in early spring and again in mid-summer, if desired.

**Junipers** shape, as needed, from mid- May to mid- August.

**Arborvitae** shape, as needed, from mid-May to mid-August.

**Pine & Spruce** prune, if needed, around mid-May, when they are candling (new growth). Snap off candles 1/2 to 2/3 from the tip