



Customized Pruning Guide

LANDSCAPING by
BACHMAN'S™

This guide will help you select the correct pruning technique for your plants.

Pruning should begin the second spring after planting. Regular yearly pruning will keep your landscape plants looking neat and healthy.

Pruning Methods For Common Landscape Shrubs

Variety	When to Prune	Pruning Method #
Azalea	After Blooming	3
Barberry	March	4
Boxwood	May	1
Bush Honeysuckle	March	5
Cherry	March	5
Chokeberry	March	5
Clethra	March	5
Cotoneaster	March	5
Currant	May	9
Dogwood	March	5
Elderberry	March	5
Euonymus-Canadale Gold, Moonshadow	March	7
Euonymus-Other Varieties	March	5
Falsespirea	March	5
Forsythia	After Blooming	3
Fothergilla	After Blooming	3
Hazelnut	March	5
Honeysuckle	March	5
Hydrangea-Annabella, Incrediball	March	8
Hydrangea-Endless Summer	Late Fall	8
Hydrangea-Twist-N-Shout	Late Fall	8
Hydrangea, Other Varieties	March	5
Hypericum	After Blooming	5

Pruning Methods For Common Landscape Shrubs

Variety	When to Prune	Pruning Method #
Lilac	After Blooming	3
Maple	March	5
Mockorange	After Blooming	5
Ninebark	March	5
Potentilla	March	4
Rhododendron	After Blooming	3
Roses, Shrub	March	5
Serviceberry	After Blooming	3
Smokebush	March	5
Snowberry	March	5
Spirea, Fritschiana	After Blooming	3
Spirea, Snowmound	March	5
Spirea, Tor	After Blooming	3
Spirea, Van. Renaissance	After Blooming	3
Spirea, Other Varieties	March	4
Sumac	March	5
Tamarisk	March	5
Viburnum, Dwarf European	March	4
Viburnum, Other Varieties	March	5
Weigela	After Blooming	3
Willow	After Blooming	3
Winterberry	March	5

Pruning Methods For Common Landscape Perennials

Variety	When to Prune	Pruning Method #
Most Perennials (except where noted)	March	8

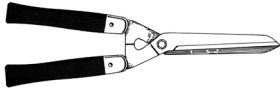
Pruning Methods For Common Landscape Trees

Variety	When to Prune	Pruning Method #
Fruit, Flowering Crabs, Serviceberry, Hawthorns	Late February	6
Elms, Oaks	December	6
Lilac, Fringetree, Magnolia	After Blooming	6
All Other Trees	March	6

Pruning Methods For Common Landscape Evergreens

Variety	When to Prune	Pruning Method#
Arborvitae, Globe & Upright	May	1
Chamaecyparis	May	1
Fir	May	2
Hemlock, Spreading	March	7
Hemlock, Upright	May	2
Juniper, Spreading	March	7
Juniper, Upright	May	1
Pines	May	2
Spruces	May	2
Yew, Spreading & Upright	May	1

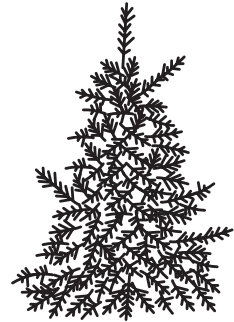
When: When the new growth is evident, usually in May.



Tool: Hedge Trimmer

How: With a sharp hedge trimmer, shear back 1" to 3" of new growth. Do not shear deeper than the green on the branch. Keep the shape of the plant in mind, stepping back occasionally to make sure you are maintaining that shape. (See next page for specific evergreen shapes.)

Note: Some plants have another growth spurt in July and may be sheared again. However, do not shear after August 15.

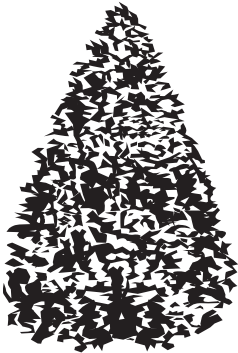


Before



After

Common Shapes for Sheared Evergreens



Pyramidal
Arborvitae



Upright
Juniper



Upright
Yew

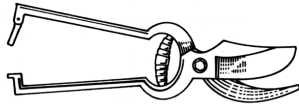
Taunton
Yew



Globe
Arborvitae

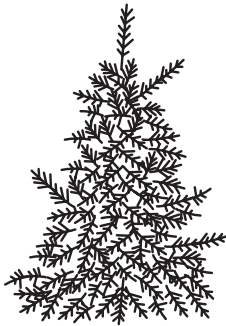
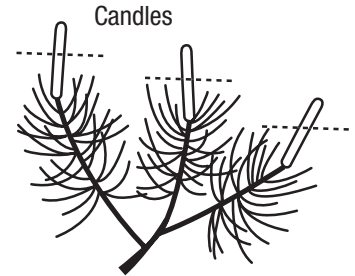


When: When the new growth “candles” appear and are still soft, usually early May.



Tool: Hand Pruner

How: To make a fuller, denser plant, cut off 1/2 the length of new candles all over the plant.



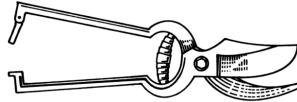
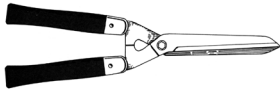
Before



After

With a hand pruner, cut out any wildly shooting branches or secondary leaders that develop. Cut branches under a branching point to hide the cut.

When: After blooming is over, usually early May or June.

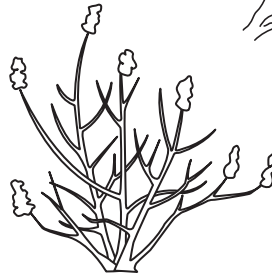


Tool: Lopping Shear or Hand Pruner

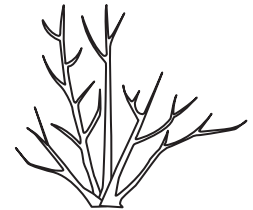
How: With a hand pruner, do light branch-by-branch trimming to shape the plant. If size reduction is needed, use Method 5 in March.



Note: If the shrub has dried flowers or seed heads, remove them by cutting at the base of the flower.

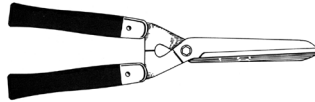
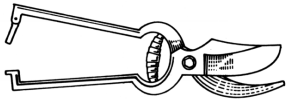


Before



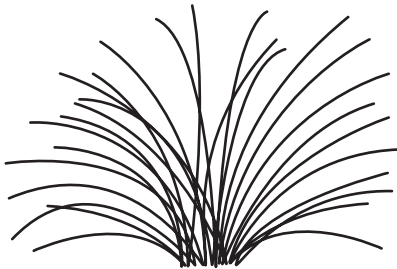
After

When: March

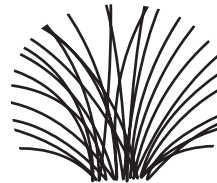


Tool: Hand Pruner or Hedge Shears

How: With a hand pruner or sharp hedge shear, cut the shrub back to approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of its height. Cutting at buds is not a concern for these shrubs.



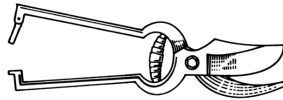
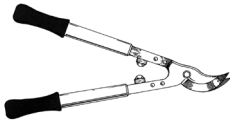
Before



After

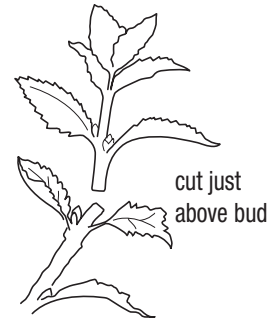
Note: When shrubs are used to form a hedge, let the bottom of the shrubs grow wider than the top.

When: March



Tool: Lopping Shear or Hand Pruner

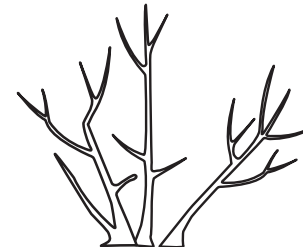
How: With a lopping shear or hand pruner, cut out 1/3 of the stems to the plant base (renewal pruning), **taking the older stems and any branches crossing over another branch first.** You can then reduce the length of remaining stems if desired, cutting at buds as shown.



Note: Do not remove more than 1/3 of the original plant per year.



Before



After

When: March

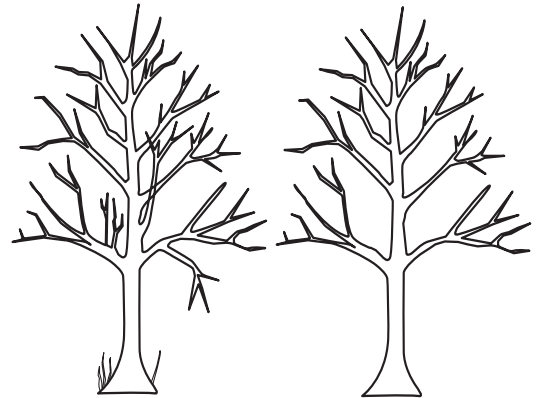


Tool: Lopping Shear or Pruning Saw

How: With a lopping shear or pruning saw, remove dead branches and suckers. Also prune any branches that cross each other closely or branches that are growing toward the center or downward. See next page for trimming large limbs.

Note: If the tree has dried flowers or seed heads, they may be removed by cutting at the base.

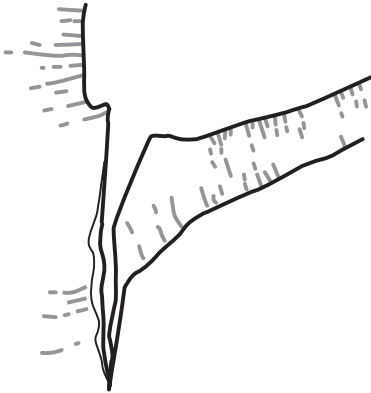
Note: Do not prune oaks or elms from mid March to October.



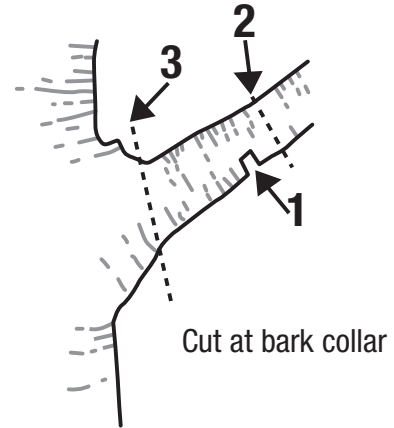
Before

After

The Right Way to Trim Heavy Limbs



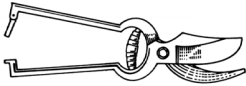
Wrong: If only one cut is made when removing a heavy limb, it is likely to break off, ripping the bark.



Right: The branch is removed in sections, taking weight off the final cut.

1. The first cut prevents the bark from ripping.
2. The second cut removes the branch and weight of the limb.
3. The last cut leaves a clean finish.

When: March, April, May, June or July



Tool: Hand pruner

How: With a hand pruner, remove portions of branches to control size and keep the plant symmetrically shaped.



Before



After

Note: “Hide” your cuts by reaching into the plant to make a cut.

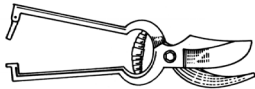


Before



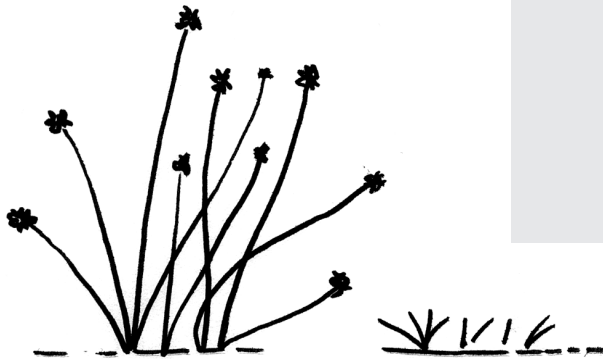
After

When: March



Tool: Hand pruner

How: Cut perennials back to the ground.
Cut woody shrubs down to 1-2”.

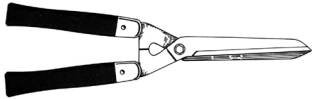


Before

After

Note: When trimming some plants, look for brown canes and cut back to where the cane is alive and green. (E.g. shrub roses, tamarisk and hydrangea.)

When: When the new growth is evident, usually May



Tool: Hedge Trimmer

How: With a sharp hedge trimmer, shear back 1” to 3” of new growth. Do not shear deeper than the green on the branch. Keep the shape of the plant in mind; step back occasionally to make sure you are maintaining the flat top “A” shape.

Note: Some plants may have another growth spurt in July and may be sheared again. However, do not shear after August 15.



Before



After



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