

GENERAL PRUNING GUIDELINES

Pruning Guidelines for Deciduous Trees & Shrubs

Pruning times may vary depending on the specific species or cultivar, but here are general guidelines:

- Spring Bloomers: Prune immediately after flowering
- Summer to Fall Bloomers: Prune in late winter or early spring before new growth appears
- Re-bloomers: Prune immediately after the first round of blooms

Pruning Guidelines for Evergreens

Generally, prune all evergreens (except Pines) before new growth starts in spring or in mid-summer before August.

- Arborvitae: Heavy pruning before new growth appears; light pruning from spring to mid-summer. Avoid pruning into the 'dead zone' (areas without foliage) as it won't regenerate
- Boxwood: Prune late winter for a natural appearance or prune after the spring flush for a more formal appearance.
- Juniper: Prune in late March and April or before new growth appears. Light pruning in late June or early July. Avoid the 'dead zone'
- Pine: Prune only during 'candle stage'. Cut back candles by 1/2 to 2/3, but no further
- Spruce: Rarely needs pruning. If necessary, prune in late winter while dormant. Not recommended in nurseries unless absolutely necessary
- Yew & Hemlock: Annual shearing after new growth has expanded but before August. For hard pruning, do so before new growth appears in spring

General Pruning Advice

Avoid pruning from August to October except to remove broken branches. Late-season pruning encourages new growth susceptible to winter damage

Newly planted trees and shrubs: Avoid pruning for the first few years after planting, except to remove broken or crossing branches. Leaf buds stimulate root growth, so excessive pruning can hinder root development