**Herbaceous vs Woody Shrub -  
*General Guidelines***

**Herbaceous** – New growth emerges from base; cut previous season growth to  
ground in spring

**Woody** –

* Cut not more than 1/3 off plant at a time
* Prune out dead and crossing branches
* Prune to shape
* Only cut if needed
* Don’t use pruning paints or sealers



**Spring/Early Summer Flowering Shrubs (**Forsythia, Spirea, Potentilla, Lilac, Barberry, Sumac)

* Flower on last year’s growth
* Prune 1 month after flowering finished
* Pruning in fall, winter or early spring will remove flower wood and no flowers will show up

Exceptions:

**Salvia greggii (autumn sage**)

* Flowers in late spring / early summer
* Cut back lightly to shape in spring
* Prune more severely every 3 years - cut back to half their height and thin out interior if congested and there are a lot of crossed branches

**Lavender**

* + - **English** (*Lavendula augustifolia*)– blooms in spring and early summer (Munstead, Royal velvet, Mitchem Gray, Hidcoat)

Blooms in late spring/early summer **– but flowers on new growth**

* + - Mid-spring when sprigs of new growth appear: shear to shape and remove winter-killed twigs and dead interior branches
    - Early summer after flowering: cut-off faded flowers (some varieties will rebloom)
    - **French hybrid** (*Lavendula intermedia*) – blooms in summer (Gros bleu, Grosso)

Blooms in summer; mid-spring when sprigs of new growth appear -shear to shape and remove winter-killed twigs and dead interior branches

* + - **Spanish lavender** – does not over-winter here

**Summer Flowering Shrubs -** *Flower on current season’s growth*

Mid-spring -

* + - Prune to remove winter-killed branches
    - Shape plant for later flowering

During the Summer – deadhead to encourage re-bloom (some plants) – Examples:

* *Coreopsis* (tickseed) - Can shear ½ of plant (including flower height) and will rebloom within few weeks
* Yarrow – Deadhead to encourage new flowers, cutting stem just above the spot where a branching, or lateral, flower shoots off to the side
* Penstemon - Can cut spent flower stems after bloom or after collecting seeds

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| **Lilacs**  **When to prune**   * Not until 6 to 8’ tall * Just after flowers have faded (next season’s buds set almost immediately – late pruning will sacrifice next season’s flowers)   **Deadheading -** New plants should bloom within 2 – 5 years   * Deadheading first few years of blooming puts plant’s energy into setting more buds * Deadheading not required or beneficial after that * Some years will bloom more than others; often weather dependent; stressful summer yields fewer flowers   **How to Maintenance Prune -**  Start by removing   * Dead or diseased stems * Pencil thin suckers and twiggy growth * Stems thicker than 2” in diameter * Stems that cross or rub against each other   Not more than 1/3 of stems each year  **Reviving Overgrown -** Will take about 3 years   * Prune 1/3 of oldest branches all the way to the ground each year * Easiest in early spring before branches leaf out * More drastic approach – cut whole plant to about 6 – 8” from ground |

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| **Wisteria**  Prune in Summer and Winter   * Summer to keep compact and tamed * Winter to remove dead & diseased wood & unwanted whips; cut back to spurs to get more flowers * Remove water sprouts & suckers immediately |

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| **Clematis – 3 Groups**  **Group A** – mostly evergreen, first to bloom in spring, mostly in zones 6 to 9; flowers on last year’s growth; slower grower   * Cut out winter die-back in spring * Prune to correct growth as soon as bloom finishes * Prune just enough to shape the plant or to keep it in bounds * If there is very old wood on the plant, avoid cutting into it, since it is less likely to re-sprout.   **Group B** – flower mid-spring on last year’s stems; flowers evenly scattered up & down entire vine –   * Prune in late winter or early spring, when leaf buds start to swell * Remove dead leaves; cut out dead stems, unruly stems, etc.   **Group C** – bloom late spring /early summer; lower branches have sparse leaves and maybe a few flowers; flowers mostly on new growth   * If don’t cut old stems back for a year, the majority of new foliage and flowers will be at the top * As soon as new sprouts start to swell in spring, cut everything down toward the ground * If want to cover a pergola, prune only top 1/3 to 1/2 (flowers will be at the top of structure) |

**When to Prune Established Trees**

**Conifers** – anytime, but during dormant season (late fall/early winter) may minimize sap and resin flow from cut branches

**Live oaks** – late winter

**Deciduous trees** – major pruning when dormant; minor corrective pruning – anytime

**Maple trees** - avoid sap producing times of late winter & early spring

**Newly Planted Landscape Trees**

* Will establish faster if not pruned for at least first year after planting
* Leave temporary branches on lower trunk to provide carbohydrates
* Tender bark may be sunburned if too much foliage removed
* Prune out misplaced branches the following winter