**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

|  |
| --- |
| **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
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **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
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **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