**When to Prune?**

**Late Winter-Early Spring**

* **This is the best time to prune most plants because it is before growth begins.**
* **Prune a few of the oldest canes from all mature shrubs down to the ground.**
* **Trim deciduous hedges wider at the base, narrower at the top.**
* **From dormant fruit trees - remove weak, broken and crowded branches.**
* **Head back branches that have flower buds.**
* **In spring, prune evergreens of winter damaged wood and discoloured foliage.**
* **Avoid pruning frozen wood.**

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| **Plant** | **Instructions For Pruning** |
| **Apple** | Prune moderately. Trim for low head. Keep main branches well spaced around tree. |
| **Azalea** | To renew old plants, fertilize well for one year. Then in spring, remove any damaged or overgrown canes. |
| **Cherry** | Prune moderately, lightly prune the most vigorous shoots. |
| **Grape** | Heavily prune old wood back to the main vine. Cut previous year's growth back to four or five buds. |
| **Peach** | Prune for low, ball-shaped top at a clean trunk. Vigorously prune one half of previous year's growth. Keep centre of tree open for good air circulation. |
| **Pear** | Prune lightly each year. Thin excess branches to encourage a spreading tree. Prune young tree to a central leader. |
| **Plum** | Prune moderately and a little each year at the crown to keep shoots coming on. |
| **Barberry** | Prune lightly after flowering to restore shape. |
| **Elderberry** | After fruiting, remove some of the oldest shoots at the ground, or cut back an old plant hard to force a new crop of canes. |
| **Hydrangea** | Prune Hills-of-Snow variety back to the ground. For other varieties, remove weak and dead growth and cut flowering stems back to two buds. |
| **Roses** | (Hybrid, Tea and Perpetual) After frosts, cut away dead and weak growth and shorten remaining canes to four or five buds. |
| **Snowberry** | Cut out old twiggy canes. Cut back last season's growth of remaining parts to three buds. |

**Late Spring-Early Summer**

* **This is the season of greatest growth.**
* **Remove some of the oldest canes of mature shrubs after flowering.  Pinch out tips to encourage branching.**
* **Freely trim narrow-leaf evergreens of new growth.**
* **Remove dead flowers from broad-leaf evergreens to prevent formation of seed pods.**
* **Pinch any buds that may be starting unwanted growth.**

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| **Plant** | **Instructions For Pruning** |
| **Azalea** | Prune for shape after all blooming has stopped. |
| **Deutzia** | Prune lightly to remove a few older branches and dead twigs after blooming has stopped. |
| **Dogwood** | After flowering, remove dead wood.  Other types, prune dead wood only to preserve natural shape. |
| **Forsythia** | After flowering, remove a few older branches. For old, neglected plants, cut back entire plant to about one foot, leave three to five canes. |
| **Honeysuckle** | Cut some of the oldest wood to the ground every 4-5 years. Pinch shoots to encourage branching. |
| **Mountain Laurel** | Prune lightly. Pinch off clusters of spent blossoms. Remove a few old branches at the ground to induce new growth from roots. |
| **Privet** | In April, cut back hard to rejuvenate old plants. |
| **Rhododendron** | Same as Mount Laurel. |
| **Roses** | (Climbing) After flowering, prune one half of the old growth at the ground. Keep new shoots for next year's flowers. |
| **Pine/Spruce** | Cut back candles on side of branches of young trees to one half or less after needles have expanded but before hardening. |

**Summer**

* **Summer pruning entails removal of plant parts that are actively at work.**
* **Shear hedges regularly for appearance.**
* **Prune some lower branches from shade trees to develop clean trunks.**
* **Always be ready to pinch tips of leafy shoots, but not until after flowering.**
* **Limit pruning done late in the summer as new growth may be damaged by the coming low temperatures.**

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| **Plant** | **Instructions For Pruning** |
| **Apple** | Prune to encourage good structure growth and support. |
| **Blackberry** | Cut back new shoots to approximately three and one half feet. |
| **Crab-apple** | Cut away weak internal shoots and crowded branches to a crotch. Thin out weeping and spreading forms to accentuate their growth patterns. |
| **Holly** | Prune any time of the year to restore shape. |
| **Raspberry** | Head back new canes to approximately 22 inches. Remove spent canes and excess shoots. |
| **Roses** | Prune lightly to shorten shoots only. Remove faded flowers (except for species roses). |
| **Privet** | Starting in June, trim to shape three times at six-week intervals. |
| **Yew** | Trim to maintain shape. |
| **Wild Cherry** | Prune very lightly. Trim lower branches and burn the wilted foliage. |

**Autumn-Winter**

* **Prune shade trees all winter for general shaping and to repair damage.**
* **Prune shrubs once more in September, especially to remove basal suckers.**
* **Avoid pruning evergreens.**
* **When removing heavy limbs, use proper safety procedures.**

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| **Plant** | **Instructions For Pruning** |
| **Honeysuckle** | Remove gnarled and diseased old wood. |
| **Mock Orange** | Remove a few of the oldest canes every three to four years. |
| **Peony** | (Herbaceous) Cut to the ground as leaves mature and look dry. |
| **Roses** | (Tea and Hybrid) Lightly prune to prevent wind whipping and storm damage. |
| **Fir** | Use sharp tools to remove diseased or injured branches during very cold weather only. |