A Guide to Successful Shrub Pruning

K·STATE
Research and Extension
Johnson County

Legend:
  * Best time to prune
  X Do not prune, except to correct damage, hazards or structural defects.

Comments:

1. Flowers are produced on new (current season's) wood.
2. Flowers are produced on wood from the past season. Pruning while dormant will reduce flowers.
3. Make pruning cuts well below diseased wood and disinfect shears between cuts.
4. Remove selected old stems to the ground yearly to renew.
5. Midseason, shear if a formal hedge is desired.
6. Do not cut into old wood that has no leaves or needles.
7. Fall/early winter pruning can reduce winter hardiness.
8. Snap candles (new growth) in half when needles are 1/2 to 2/3 their normal length.

Plant	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Code
Abelia	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4
Almond, flowering	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Arborvitae	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	6, 7
Azalea, deciduous	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Azalea, evergreen	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Barberry	X	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	
Beautybush Kolkwitzia	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Boxwood	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	5, 6
Butterfly Bush	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4
Clethra	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Cotoneaster	X	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Crape Myrtle	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4, 7
Deutzia	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Dogwood, red twig	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4
Elder	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Euonymus	X	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	
Forsythia	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Fothergilla	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Holly, deciduous	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Holly, evergreen	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Honeysuckle	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Hydrangea, spring blooming	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X,	2, 4
Hydrangea, summer blooming	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Hypericum, St. Johnswort	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Itea	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Juniper	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	5, 6
Kerria	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Lilac	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Mahonia	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4, 7
Mockorange	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Nandina	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 7
Pine, Mugo	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	6, 8
Privet, Ligustrum	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	2, 4, 5

Plant	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Code
Potentilla	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4
Prunus, Plum & Cherry	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pyracantha	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2,
Quince	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Rhododendron	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 7
Rose	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	1, 3, 4
Rose of Sharon	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Serviceberry	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Smoke Tree	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1
Spirea, spring blooming	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Spirea, summer blooming	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4
Sweetshrub Carolina Allspice	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	1, 4
Spruce	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	6, 7, 8
Viburnum	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Weigela	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Willow, pussy	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2, 4
Witchhazel	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	X	2
Yew	X	X	X	*	*	*	*	*	*	X	X	X	5, 7

A Guide to Successful Pruning

Virginia Tech Publication 430-462, 1998 authored by Bonnie Lee Appleton, Extension Nursery Specialist and Susan C. French, Research Specialist. Revised for Kansas conditions by Dennis Patton, Johnson County K-State Research and Extension, Horticulture Agent

K·STATE
Research and Extension
Johnson County

Johnson County K-State Research and Extension
11811 S. Sunset Dr. Suite 1500
Olathe, Kansas 66061-7057
913-715-7000
www.johnson.k-state.edu

Extension Master Gardener Hotline
(913) 715-7050
garden.help@jocogov.org

Rev.8/2015