

How do I prune shrubs?

Rejuvenation Pruning

Rejuvenation pruning is the cutting back of all stems to a height of 4 - 10." This technique is used to revitalize multiple stems, leggy, overgrown or diseased shrubs. It is particularly appropriate on the following shrubs:

- Butterflybush
- Dwarf Bushhoneysuckle (Diervilla)
- Hardy Hibiscus
- Smoothleaf Hydrangea
- Potentilla
- Spirea (except Bridalwreath and Snowmound)



Renewal Pruning

Renewal pruning is the annual removal of a shrub's older stems to ground level. This exposes the more productive young stems to full sunlight, while controlling the plant's ultimate height.

To begin, first determine the natural look or growth habitat of the shrub to be pruned. Then determine the ages of the stems and remove the older or damaged limbs. Place your loppers as low as possible on each limb and cut. You can remove 25% of the older stems without damaging the plant or causing it to look out of balance.

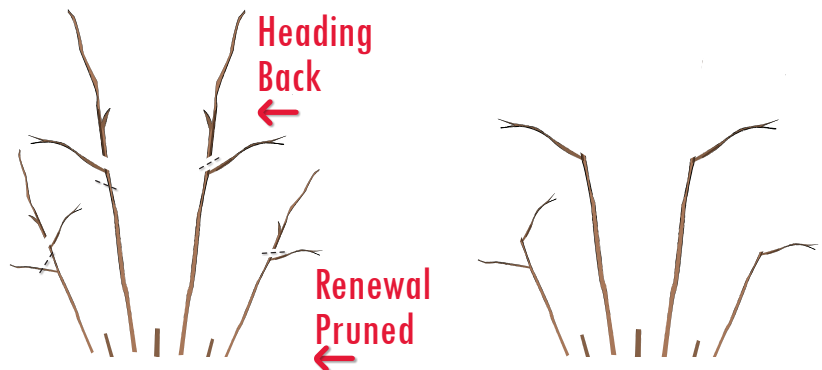


Renewal pruning not only removes older limbs but also lowers the shrub's height. When this pruning method is used along with the "heading back" pruning technique, the shrub size can be drastically reduced without destroying the natural appearance.

Heading Back

After renewal pruning, the remaining branches may be too tall and limber. Head back by cutting at the nearest side branch or bud to the desired height.

Cut as near to the side branch as possible and at the same angle as the limb.



Tips on Pruning Hedges

- 1 Prune hedges wider at the bottom than at the top. This allows light to fall directly onto the lower foliage, keeping it actively growing and replacing the lower leaves.
- 2 New growth starts at or near the cuts and forms a solid cover of new foliage. Each time you shear a hedge, leave 1/2 - 1" of previous growth; the shrub needs this new growth to keep the plant healthy with the ability for regrowth.

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Spring Flowering Shrubs

Blooms on previous year's growth. Prune the following shrubs as soon as flowers fade, before new growth starts. Do not prune in winter or before shrub blooms in the spring, as this will remove flower buds that would produce this year's flowers!

- Serviceberry
- Azalea
- Barberries
- Chokeberry
- Cotoneaster
- Crabapple
- Deutzia
- Dogwood
- Elder
- Euonymus (Burningbush)
- Floweringquince
- Forsythia
- Fothergilla
- Holly
- Hydrangea: Climbing
- Kerria
- Lilac
- Magnolia
- Mockorange
- Ninebark
- Rhododendron
- Smokebush
- Bridalwreath
- Tamarisk
- Viburnum
- Weigela
- White Fringetree
- Winterberry
- Witchhazel

Summer Flowering Shrubs

Blooms on this year's growth. Prune in the dormant season, late winter to early spring, before new growth begins. Pruning after growth starts removes flower buds which would form this year's blooms!

- Bottlebrush Buckeye
- Butterflybush
- Coralberry
- Dwarf Bushhoneysuckle (Diervilla)
- False Spirea
- Hardy Hibiscus
- Hydrangea (Smoothleaf and PeeGee)
- Potentilla
- Rose
- Snowberry
- Spirea
- St. Johnswort
- Sumac
- Willow - Dwarf Arctic