

PRUNING

Removal of plant parts for purposes other than harvesting

Reasons to prune:

- Deadhead (remove spent flowers from annuals and perennials)
- Remove dead, damaged, diseased or weak growth from trees and shrubs
- Encourage healthier or bushier growth
- Limit the size of a hedge or plant to a more confined space

Timing is Everything

Complete pruning before bud break in the spring for:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Abelia | Ligustrum |
| • Callicarpa | Nandina |
| • Buddleia | Photinia |
| • Chaste Tree | Roses |
| • Crapemyrtle | Waxmyrtle |
| • Gardenia | Junipers (tip prune or shape lightly) |
| • Hibiscus | Ornamental grasses |
| • Hypericum (St. John's Wort) | Liriope |
| • Holly | Trees |

Prune spring-flowering shrubs when they finish flowering:

- Azalea
- Barberry
- Blueberry
- Euonymus
- Forsythia
- Bush Honeysuckle
- Lilac
- Rhododendron

How to Prune:

- Shorten individual branches to control the size of the plant
- Thin by removing an entire branch back to the main trunk or ground
- Shear to clip foundation shrubs such as holly or boxwood

How much to prune:

Don't take more than one-third of the plant at a time.

Abstracted from Urban Horticulture Note No. 9 from the NC Cooperative Extension Service-Durham County Center