



PLANT PRUNING AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE
2022



PERENNIALS:

WE ARE USING PERENNIALS TO DESCRIBE ORNAMENTAL GRASSES AND OTHER FLOWERING OR NON FLOWERING PLANTS THAT LIVE FOR 2 OR MORE GROWING SEASONS AND DO NOT DEVELOP WOODY STRUCTURE. PERENNIALS ARE NORMALLY CUT BACK DOWN TO THE GROUND AT THE BEGINNING OR THE END OF THE GROWING SEASON IN ORDER TO CLEAN UP THE YARD, PREVENT ROT OF THE ROOT STRUCTURE AND ALLOW FOR HEALTHY GROWTH THE FOLLOWING SEASON. EXAMPLES OF THIS THAT WE COMMONLY USE IN LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS ARE: LAVENDER, BLUE OAT GRASS, CONE FLOWERS, HIBISCUS (NON SHRUB), CORAL BELLS, FEATHER REED GRASS, PENSTEMON, ETC.

[TO SEE GENERAL PERENNIAL MAINTENANCE GUIDE INFORMATION CLICK HERE](#)

NOT ALL POSSIBLE PERENNIALS CAN BE COVERED IN THIS GUIDE. BELOW ARE LINKS TO SOME SITE THAT CAN PROVIDE FURTHER MAINTENANCE INFORMATION ON OTHER PLANTS. THERE ARE NOT VERY MANY CENTRALIZED SITES FOR INFORMATION ON MAINTENANCE SO IF YOU ARE HAVING A HARD TIME FINDING A PLANT GIVE YOUR STANDARD SEARCH ENGINE A SHOT.

[PLANT MAINTENANCE RESOURCE 1: CLICK HERE](#)

[START YOUR OWN SEARCH: CLICK HERE](#)

BELOW ARE SOME OF THE COMMONLY USED PERENNIALS WITH TIME OF YEAR FOR CUTBACK:

PLANT:	SEASON TO PRUNE:	DETAILS:
BLUE OAT GRASS	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT 3" ABOVE GROUND
FEATHER REED GRASS	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT 3" - 5" ABOVE GROUND
GRACILLIMUS MAIDEN GRASS	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT 4" - 6" ABOVE GROUND
FOUNTAIN GRASS	LATE FALL - EARLY SPRING	CUT 4" - 6" ABOVE GROUND
BLUE FESCUE	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT 3" - 4" ABOVE GROUND
JAPANESE FOREST GRASS	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	REMOVE ALL DEAD FOLIAGE
HOSTA	FALL (AFTER FIRST FROST)	CUT DOWN TO GROUND
IRIS	LATE FALL (ONCE TURNS BROWN)	CUT DOWN TO GROUND
LILY TURF	LATER WINTER - EARLY SPRING	REMOVE ALL DEAD FOLIAGE
WESTERN SWORD FERN	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT BACK ALL FRONDS. LEAVE NEW FIDDLE HEADS.
ASTILBE	LATE FALL	CUT 3" ABOVE GROUND
SHASTA DAISY	LATE FALL - EARLY WINTER	CUT 3" ABOVE GROUND
CORAL BELLS	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT DOWN TO GROUND
CONE FLOWER	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	CUT 3" - 4" ABOVE GROUND
BLACK EYED SUSAN	LATE FALL	REMOVE ALL DEAD FOLIAGE
LAVENDER	LATE SUMMER - EARLY FALL	CUT BACK ALL FLOWERS AFTER BLOOM IS COMPLETE.



BLUE OAT GRASS



FEATHER REED GRASS



MAIDEN GRASS



FOUNTAIN GRASS



BLUE FESCUE



JAPANESE FOREST GRASS



HOSTA



SIBERIAN IRIS



LILY TURF



WESTERN SWORD FERN



ASTILBE



SHASTA DAISY



CORAL BELLS



CONE FLOWERS

BLACK EYED SUSAN



LAVENDER

WOODY SHRUBS & ORNAMENTAL TREES

(DECIDUOUS):

WE ARE USING THIS SECTION TO DESCRIBE WHAT SHOULD BE DONE TO PRUNE AND TAKE CARE OF DECIDUOUS SHRUBS AND DECIDUOUS ORNAMENTAL TREES. WE RECOMMEND THAT ALL PRUNING OF LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES AND ALL EVERGREEN (CONIFEROUS) SHRUBS AND TREES BE DONE BY A ARBORIST. DECIDUOUS WOODY SHRUBS AND TREES ARE NORMALLY PRUNED TO MAINTAIN SHAPE, MINIMIZE GROWTH INTO AN UNDESIRE SPACE, PREVENT HEIGHT, OR TO SPUR DENSER FOLIAGE GROWTH. THESE PLANTS SHOULD NEVER BE CUT DOWN TO THE GROUND LIKE A PERENNIAL AS THEY MAINTAIN THEIR STRUCTURE FROM SEASON TO SEASON ONLY DROPPING THEIR LEAVES. EXAMPLES OF DECIDUOUS WOODY SHRUBS AND ORNAMENTAL TREES THAT WE COMMONLY USE IN LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS ARE: DOGWOOD TREE, MAGNOLIA TREE, JAPANESE MAPLE, NINEBARK, LAUREL, BURNING BUSH, SMOKE BUSH, HYDRANGEA, ETC.

[TO SEE SHRUB AND WOODY PLANT PRUNING GUIDE INFORMATION PLEASE CLICK HERE](#)

BELOW ARE SOME OF THE COMMONLY USED WOODY SHRUBS AND TREES WITH TIME OF YEAR FOR PRUNING:

PLANT:	SEASON TO PRUNE:	DETAILS:
MAGNOLIA TREE	MID SUMMER - EARLY FALL	REMOVE SUCKERS, DAMAGED BRANCHES AND OVERLAPPING BRANCHES THAT DO NOT MATCH THE TREE SHAPE. DO NOT OVER PRUNE.
FLOWERING DOGWOOD TREE	ANYTIME	REMOVE SUCKERS AND DAMAGED BRANCHES. PRUNE FOR SHAPE. DO NOT OVER PRUNE.
LACE-LEAF JAPANESE MAPLE	ANYTIME	BE CAREFUL! READ THIS BEFORE PRUNING YOUR MAPLE
BURNING BUSH	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	PRUNE TO SHAPE REMOVING OLDER AND DAMAGED BRANCHES. NEVER REMOVE MORE THEN 30% OF SHRUB.
NINE BARK	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	PRUNE TO SHAPE REMOVING OLDER AND DAMAGED BRANCHES. NEVER REMOVE MORE THEN 30% OF SHRUB.
RED OISER DOGWOOD (SHRUB)	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	PRUNE TO SHAPE REMOVING OLDER AND DAMAGED BRANCHES. NEVER REMOVE MORE THEN 30% OF SHRUB.
HYDRANGEA	LATE FALL - EARLY SPRING	CUT BACK WOODY STEMS ABOVE A BUD ABOUT 12" - 18" ABOVE GROUND.
ROSE OF SHARON HIBISCUS (SHRUB)	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	REMOVE ALL GROWTH FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR. PRUNE TO SHAPE AND REMOVE ANY DAMAGED BRANCHES. DO NOT OVER PRUNE.
LAUREL	SPRING - FALL	PRUNE TO SHAPE DURING THE GROWING SEASON TO AVOID STRESSING PLANT DURING THE COLDER MONTHS. DO NOT OVER PRUNE IN SINGLE GO.
SMOKE BUSH	LATE WINTER - EARLY SPRING	PRUNE TO SHAPE REMOVING OLDER AND DAMAGED BRANCHES.
LILAC	LATE SPRING	PRUNE BACK FOR SHAPE AND SIZE DIRECTLY AFTER BLOOMS DIE OFF IN SPRING. PRUNING LATER MAY REMOVE BLOOMS FOR NEXT YEAR.
WEIGELA	LATE SPRING	EVERY FEW YEARS PRUNE BACK LARGER OLD BRANCHES FROM SHRUB TO MAXIMIZE SPRING BLOOMS. READ THIS BEFORE PRUNING



MAGNOLIA TREE



FLOWERING DOGWOOD



LACE LEAF JAPANESE MAPLE



BURNING BUSH



NINEBARK



RED OISER DOGWOOD



HYDRANGEA



ROSE OF SHARRON HIBISCUS



CHERRY LAUREL



SMOKE BUSH



LILAC



WEIGELA