

## **January- February**

### **Evergreens**

Prune most broadleaf evergreens now: abelia, boxwood, cleyera, elaeagnus, nandina, privet, and holly. Wait until after flowering for spring bloomers.

Viburnums (both evergreen and deciduous) can be cut back hard to reduce size, but you will sacrifice flowers for the season. Wait until after flowering for light pruning.

Needled evergreens including arborvitae, juniper, and yews can be shaped in late winter. Take care not to cut back into old wood. Wait until March to prune pittosporum. Conifers (cone-bearing evergreens) are pruned in June.

### **Shrubs**

Many ornamental shrubs bloom on new growth that emerges in spring. These are pruned in late winter: beautyberry, butterfly bush, clethra, crapemyrtle, panicle hydrangeas (*Hydrangea paniculata*), smooth hydrangeas (*Hydrangea arborescens*), roses, and rose of Sharon.

Shape barberry, dogwood, and deciduous holly as needed.

Wisteria: prune shoots down to three to five buds to encourage better blooming.

### **Hedges**

Formal hedges often require both a winter and mid-summer shaping, including plants like abelia, arborvitae, boxwood, euonymus, holly, juniper, and privet.

### **Fruits**

Blueberry: Reduce the number of stems, leaving only three each of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year canes.

Blackberry: Reduce the number of canes/stems per plant, leaving the strongest. Trim the side (lateral) branches of remaining canes to 12-15 inches for larger fruits.

Figs: Remove any dead, damaged, or weak branches to encourage growth.

## **March-April**

### **Winter and Spring Bloomers**

Prune camellia, daphne, forsythia, flowering quince, loropetalum, and viburnum after they finish blooming.

Prune abelia, mahonia and nandina

### **Fruits**

Blueberry: Remove flowers the first year to encourage a strong root system.

Grapes: Prune established vines in March by cutting back the previous summer's growth to three to five buds per branch (called spurs). Reduce the number of spurs so they are evenly spaced along the central stem or cordon.

## **May-July**

### **Shrubs**

Bigleaf (macrophylla) and oakleaf hydrangeas bloom on old wood. Prune after plants finish blooming. Oakleaf hydrangeas seldom require pruning.

Wisteria: cut back long shoots after flowers fade.

### **Hedges**

Formal hedges may need shaping after the spring flush of growth. Clip abelia, arborvitae, boxwood, euonymus, holly, juniper, and privet as needed.

### **Fruits**

Blueberry: Prune for size as needed after harvest.

Blackberry: Trim first-year shoots to chest height mid-summer to encourage branching.

Grape: Remove flowers first two seasons as vines establish. Continue to train vine to trellis or arbor.

## **August-September**

Rose: Summer pruning of rosebushes can increase late-season blooms. Limit pruning to deadheading, removal of damaged wood, and minimal shaping to remove leggy branches.

## **October-November**

Avoid pruning in early autumn to prevent new growth from emerging prior to frost. Dead or damaged branches can be removed at any time, but hold off on winter pruning until after a few good hard freezes.

### **Fruits**

Blackberry: Remove the old stems that produced fruit this season. Cut these near ground level.

### **Holiday Décor**

Clip branches of holly, nandina, aucuba, yew, and other evergreens to add to your holiday decorations. You won't hurt plants by taking a few cuttings.