

# Pruning Shrubs (When and to What Form)

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Note: Species and cultivar characteristics takes precedent over recommendations of this publication.

## DECIDUOUS SHRUBS

Preferred While Dormant	Form	Preferred After Blooming	Form
<i>Abeila</i> (Glossy Abelia)	Round	<i>Amelachier</i> (Serviceberry)	Round
<i>Acanthopanax</i> (Fiveleaf Aralia)	Upright	<i>Calycanthus</i> (Sweetshrub)	Round
<i>Aronia</i> (Chokeberry)	Upright	<i>Caragana</i> (Peashrub)	Vertical Oval
<i>Berberis</i> (Barberry)	Round	<i>Chaenomeles</i> (Flowering quince)	Round
<i>Callicarpa</i> (Beautyberry)	Horizontal Weeping	<i>Cotoneaster</i> (Cotoneaster)*+	Low Spreading
<i>Ceanothus</i> (New Jersey Tea)	Round	<i>Corylopsis</i> (Winterhazel)	Spreading
<i>Cephalanthus</i> (Buttonbush)	Round	<i>Deutzia</i> (Deutzia)	Round
<i>Clethra</i> (Summersweet Clethra)	Vertical Oval	<i>Elaeagnus</i> (Autumn-olive)	Horizontal Oval
<i>Cornus</i> (Dogwood)*	Upright	<i>Enkianthus</i> (Enkianthus)	Upright
<i>Cotoneaster</i> (Cotoneaster)*+	Vertical Oval	<i>Exchorda</i> (Pearlbush)	Upright
<i>Diervilla</i> (Bush-Honeysuckle)	Round	<i>Forsythia</i> (Forsythia)	Horizontal Weeping
<i>Hibiscus</i> (Althea, Rose-of-Sharon)	Upright	<i>Fothergilla</i> (Fothergilla)	Low Spreading
<i>Hydrangea</i> (Hydrangea)+	Round	<i>Hamamelis</i> (Witchhazel)	Round
<i>Hypericum</i> (St. Johnswort)	Round	<i>Itea</i> (Sweetspire)	Round
<i>Leptodermis</i> (Leptodermis)	Round	<i>Kerria</i> (Kerria)	Upright
<i>Ligustrum</i> (Privet)	Vertical Oval	<i>Kolkwitzia</i> (Beautybush)	Horizontal Oval
<i>Lonicera</i> (Honeysuckle)+	Upright	<i>Lindera</i> (Spicebush)	Round
<i>Myrica</i> (Bayberry)	Upright	<i>Lonicera</i> (Honeysuckle)*+	Round
<i>Nandina</i> (Heavenly Bamboo)	Upright-Leggy	<i>Philadelphus</i> (Mockorange)	Upright-Leggy
<i>Pyracantha</i> (Firethorn)	Horizontal Oval	<i>Physocarpus</i> (Ninebark)	Round
<i>Rhamnus</i> (Buckthorn)	Vertical Oval	<i>Prunus</i> (Almond, Plum)	Round
<i>Rhodotypos</i> (Black Jetbead)	Round	<i>Rhododendron</i> (Azalea)+	Round
<i>Rhus aromatic</i> (Fragrant Sumac)	Low Spreading	<i>Ribes</i> (Currant)	Upright
<i>Rhus</i> (Sumac)	Horizontal Oval	<i>Salix</i> (Pussy Willow)+	Round
<i>Sambucus</i> (Elder)	Round	<i>Spiraea</i> (White Flower Spirea)	Horizontal Weeping
<i>Sorbaria</i> (False Spirea)	Horizontal Oval	<i>Stryax</i> (Snowbell)	Round
<i>Symphoricarpos</i> (Coralberry)	Low Spreading	<i>Viburnum</i> (Viburnum)*+	Round
<i>Viburnum</i> (Viburnum)*+	Round	<i>Weigela</i> (Weigela)	Horizontal Weeping

\*These shrubs consist of both flowers and fruits. Pruning while dormant or after blooming will sacrifice one or the other.

+These shrubs have many species that vary in form.

## BROADLEAF & EVERGREEN SHRUBS

Note: These may be pruned anytime they are not frozen, however, after spring growth is preferred.

	<b>Form</b>
<i>Buxus</i> (Boxwood)	Round
<i>Chamaecyparis</i> (False cypress)*	Round
<i>Euonymus</i>	Round
<i>Ilex</i> (Holly)+	Round
<i>Juniperus</i> (Juniper)+	Spreading, Upright
<i>Mahonia</i> (Oregon Grapeholly)	Spreading
<i>Picea</i> (Spruce)*	Pyramid
<i>Pinus</i> (Mugho Pine)^	Round
<i>Taxus</i> (Yew)	Spreading, Round, Upright
<i>Thuja</i> (Arborvitae)	Vertical Oval

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^ To control size, cut back the candles (new growth) as they are elongating in the spring.



**Oval**



**Spreading**



**Upright**



**Weeping**



**Rounded**



**Irregular**

## SUBSHRUBS

Note: These plants either bloom better when pruned nearly to the ground every early spring. They often have heavy above ground dieback.

*Buddleia* (Butterfly-Bush, Summer Lilac)  
*Caryopteris* (Blue-Spirea)  
*Indigofera* (Indigo)  
*Lagerstoemia* (Crapemyrtle)  
*Leycesteria* (Pheasant Berry)  
*Potentilla* (Bush Cinquefoil)  
*Spiraea* (Pink Flower Spirea)  
*Vitex* (Chastetree)

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