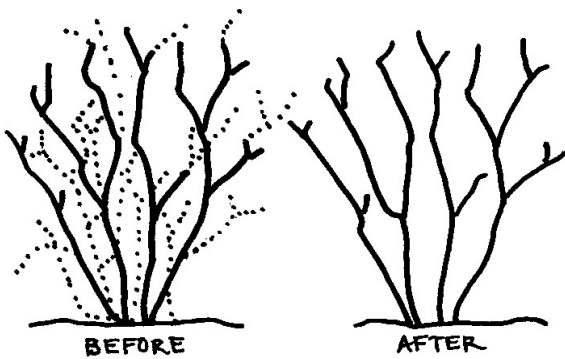


PRUNING FLOWERING SHRUBS



Why prune?

Prune your flowering shrubs to:

- Help **maintain the plant's shape** and size
- **Encourage flowering**
- **Thin** out old, woody stems
- **Discourage pests**
- **Rejuvenate** old, overgrown shrubs

If left un-pruned, the old woody stems will dominate and suppress vigorous, healthy new growth.

Tools

Hand shears – use to cut branches up to 3/4" in diameter



Lopping (long-handled) **shears** – use to cut branches 3/4" – 1 1/2" in diameter



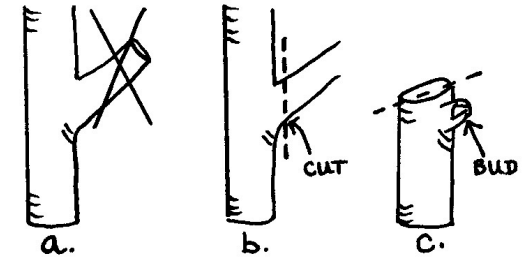
Pruning saw – use to cut branches larger than 1 1/2" in diameter



Purchase the best quality you can afford. **Keep them sharp and well oiled.** They will cut more smoothly and last for years. Clean your tools regularly. Wipe blades with denatured alcohol after pruning diseased wood.

Rules of thumb

- **First, look closely at the base of the plant;** remove old stems back to the soil line, or back to the trunk or main stem, to **make way for new shoots and allow penetration of light and air.**
- **Avoid leaving stubs!**
- If rejuvenating a plant, **remove only 1/3 of the old wood the first year,** then 1/2 old wood the second year, remove all the remaining old wood the third and last year.



- Do not leave stubs!**
- Cut cleanly, **back to a main supporting stem.**
- Head back to **just above a bud;** cut on a slight angle.

When to Prune?

- **In late February or March, before spring growth begins,** prune flowering shrubs that bloomed late in the previous spring or summer. Examples: butterflybush, beautyberry, oakleaf hydrangea, P.G. hydrangea, rose of sharon, hybrid tea rose
- **In late spring or early summer,** prune spring flowering shrubs right after flowering, before new buds set. Examples: andromeda, climbing and shrub roses, flowering quince, forsythia, lilac, mock orange, rhododendron, viburnum
- **Do not prune after mid- August,** otherwise new growth, susceptible to winter damage, might be stimulated.



www.mass.gov/agr/
www.massflowergrowers.com/
www.extension.umass.edu/landscape/