



VIBURNUMS

HOW AND WHEN TO PRUNE

Typically viburnum shrubs need relatively little pruning. However to maintain shape an occasional annual pruning is needed.

Although light pruning can be done at anytime, the best time is immediately after blooming. For severe pruning or shaping it is done best in late winter or very early spring.

How to prune: Young shrubs can be pinched back to help maintain shape. Choose an upright stem and prune back to a node. A node is where there is branching from the main stem. After pruning back to the node then prune the side shoots. Do this pruning each year. Viburnums can withstand heavy pruning without causing harm. However do not cut back more than 1/3 of the plant.

Always prune any dead or diseased branching from the shrub immediately. Be sure to sterilize your pruners afterwards with rubbing alcohol or a bleach solution.



WEIGELAS

HOW AND WHEN TO PRUNE

Weigelas are naturally arching shrubs, blooming from late spring to early summer. After the spring flowering is done it is time to prune.

Stand back and mentally mark one-third to one-half down the branches. Cut back all branches to this mark. This encourages new growth.

Allow the shrub to re-grow stems throughout the summer and fall. Do not prune anymore until after flowering the following year if it is needed.

Always prune any dead or diseased branching from the shrub immediately. Be sure to sterilize your pruners afterwards with rubbing alcohol or a bleach solution.



LILACS

HOW AND WHEN TO PRUNE

Lilacs need a balance of new shoots and older stems to achieve the most prolific booming. In general when a stem reaches a 2" diameter it should be pruned. If you are diligent with annual pruning your lilacs will flower throughout all the branches.

When to prune: pruning is not required until large cultivars reach 6' tall, dwarf varieties will not require pruning until 4-5 years after planting. When they are that mature they should be pruned immediately after blooms fade. Lilacs set their buds for the next season blooms almost immediately after blooming, so waiting will sacrifice next year's blooms.

Maintenance Pruning:

Cut no more than one-third of a shrub's stems each year. This will keep the plant rejuvenated. Begin by pruning any diseased stems, pencil thin suckers or twiggy growth, then prune any stems larger than 2" in diameter, prune any branches that cross or rub together.

Shaping Pruning:

Prune shrub back to an outward facing bud.

Always prune any dead or diseased branching from the shrub immediately. Be sure to sterilize your pruners afterwards with rubbing alcohol or a bleach solution

