



# PRUNING DECIDUOUS FLOWERING SHRUBS

Pruning improves flowering, maintains desired size, maintains or corrects a plant's shape, removes dead wood and encourages new growth.

Although the best time to prune varies, in general, if the shrub blooms before June 15, prune as the bloom is over. If the shrub blooms after June 15, prune while it is dormant or in early spring before the buds start to grow.

## The three techniques recommended for pruning of deciduous flowering shrubs are:

1. RENEWAL - removal of a shrub's older stems to ground level.
2. HEADING BACK - Is usually done in conjunction with renewal pruning. It is the only pruning method used for single-stemmed shrubs and grafted plants such as lilacs and euonymus.
3. REJUVENATION - The complete removal of all top growth at or near the soil level. Do this if the plant has spread and is out of condition.

**TIPS ON PRUNING HEDGES** - Prune hedges so they are wider at the bottom than at the top. This allows light to fall directly onto the lower foliage, keeping it actively growing and replacing the older leaves.

New growth starts at or near the cuts and forms a solid cover of new growth. Each time you shear a hedge, leave 1/2 to 1 inch of previous growth. The shrub needs this new growth to keep the plant healthy with the ability for re-growth.

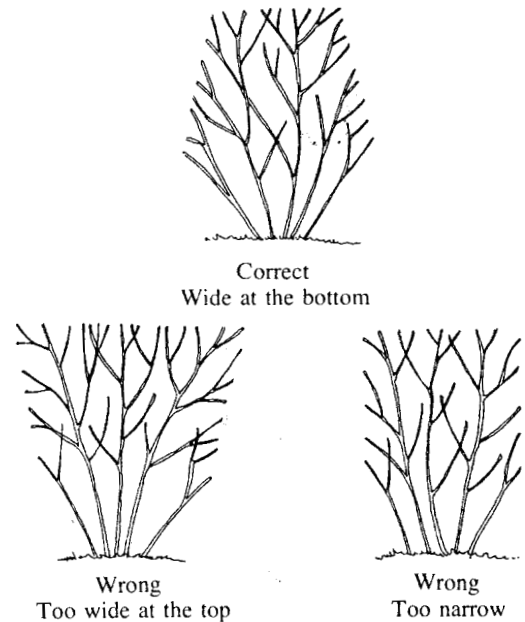
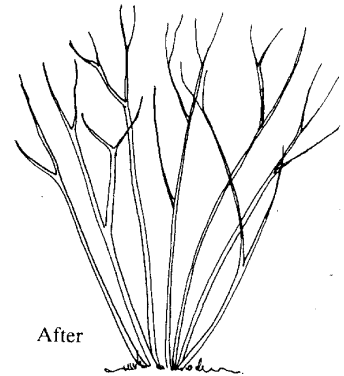
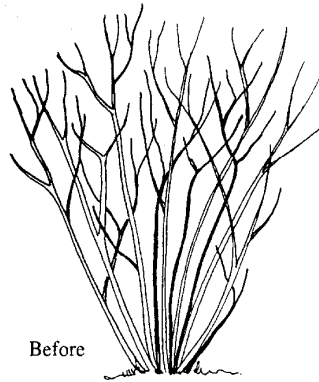


Figure 14 Prune hedges so the bottom is several inches wider than the top for a fuller growth that eliminates the twiggy base often found in hedges.

Do not prune hedges straight down because the leaves will gradually drop and even small twigs will die, leaving the ugly lower stems exposed. Hedges of any species will respond this same way when pruned straight down.

# PRUNE THESE SHRUBS IN EARLY SPRING WHILE STILL DORMANT

- Rose of Sharon
- Barberry
- Butterfly Bush
- Beautyberry (Callicarpa)
- Blue Mist Spirea
- Dogwood
- Summersweet (Clethra)
- Witch Hazel
- Hibiscus
- Hypericum
- Annabell Hydrangea
- Burning Bush
- Chokeberry
- Potentilla
- Sweet Spirea (Itea)
- Kerria
- Crape Myrtle
- Privet
- Smoke Tree
- Rose
- Summer-Flowering Spirea
- Vitex



# PRUNE AFTER FLOWERING

- Serviceberry
- Deciduous Azalea
- Sweet Shrub
- Flowering Quince
- Fringe Tree
- Scotch Broom
- Daphne
- Deutzia
- Hydrangea
- Mountain Laurel
- Beauty Bush (Kolkwitzia)
- Honey Suckle
- Mockorange
- Pieris
- Flowering Almond
- Rhododendron
- Bridal Wreath
- Van Houttei Spirea
- Lilac
- Viburnum
- Sandcherry
- Fothergilla

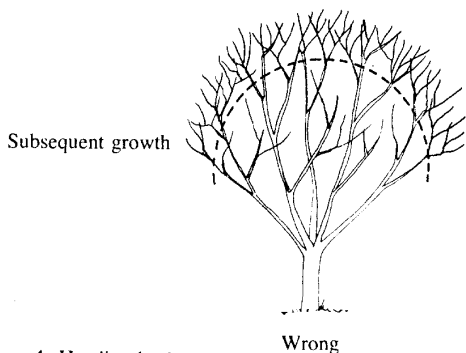
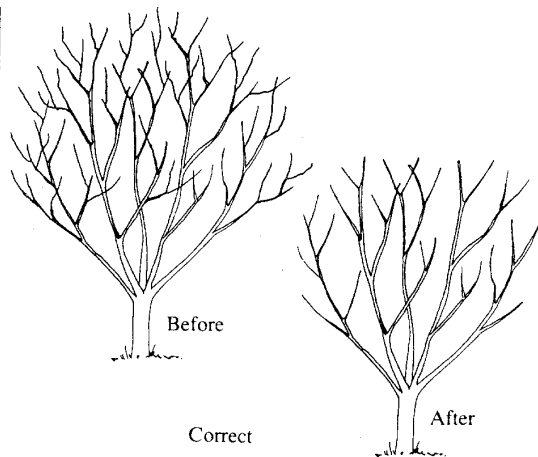


Figure 4. Heading back.