

# Guidelines to Pruning of Trees and Shrubs in Victoria, B.C.

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## FLOWERING SHRUBS & VINES

### Category 1- Flowers After June 15 -Prune After Frost

*Abelia, Clethera, Hydrangea, Vitex*

- Prune to 3" March 1 *Hardy Fushia*
- Little or no pruning *Hibiscus Syriacus*
- Prune Hard *Buddleia Davidii, Caryopteris*  
low *hypericum* shrubs and groundcovers  
*Lavatera, Leycestria* (thinning cuts)
- Cut to 1-2 feet Feb. *Clematis Jackmanii, C. Tangutica, C. Vitacella*

### Category 2- Flowers Before June 15 -Prune After Frost AND After Flowering

#### A. Winter Flowering

- Little or no pruning *Corylopsis, Clematis Armandii, Garrya, Hamamelis, Sarcacocca*
- Only if absolutely necessary *Viburnum x bodnantense*
- Prune Moderately to hard *Chaenomeles (Flowering Quince), Chimonanthus, Lonicera*
- Prune out old & weak quite hard *Jasmine nudifloram*

#### B. Spring Flowering - prune after flowering too

- Little or no pruning, except faded flowers *Azaleas. Buddleia globosa, Choisya, Pieris, Rhododendron*
- Shear back only into green *Heathers (Calluna, Daboecia, Erica) -Cistus Brooms (Cystis, Genista, Spartium)*
- Cut out 1/5 -1/3 of oldest and poorest stems. Shorten 1/3 of remaining stems *Deutzia, Forsythia, Kolkwitzia, Philadelphus, Spiraea*
- Prune to varying degrees & situations
  - *Buddleia Alternifolia* (Cut off flowered portions to good buds, on older plants thin out 1/5 to 1/3 of oldest and poorest stems)
  - *Buddleia. Globosa* (minimum pruning)
  - *Calliostemon, Ceonothus, Clematis* spp & cvs that bloom in spring, *Leucothoe, Pryracantha, Ribes, Spiraea, Syringa, Viburnum x Burkwoodii, V. arlesii, V. plicatum, Weigela.*

## FOLIAGE PLANTS – MOST PRUNED TO MAINTAIN FORM, SIZE & DENSITY

- Cut low to 4-6” each or every 2<sup>nd</sup> March - twiggy dogwoods (*Cornus*) red-barked ones in mid-April
- February & again in June - *Photinia* (can shear or cut back to force new red growth) & *Cotinus* (for best leaves prune hard, even to 18”)
- March & or July - conifers – also hose out dead material–
- Spring is best or summer - *Arbutus Unedo*, *Aucuba* (can be cut to 4”), *Buxus*, *Cotoneaster*, *Elaeagnus*, *Fatsia* (can cut out entire stems), Laurels (*Prunus* species and *Laurus nobilis*), *Nandina* (dwarf ones rarely), *Spiraea*.

## WISTERIA - Adapted from A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants, Reader's Digest, for Victoria's conditions

- In spring after planting & after first winter in ground - Prune lead shoot to 30-36”
- During growing season - Tie in lateral shoots to the support  
- Cut each sublateral to 2 or 3 buds
- Next Spring - Cut 1/3 from each lateral  
-Cut each sublateral to 2 or 3 buds  
-Cut lead shoot to 30-36” above top lateral
- Next few years framework is established - Continue prunint leader, laterals & sublaterals till
- Mature plant, in July to early August - Cut all shoots not needed to extend framework, to withing 2 or 3 bud off main branches

### NOTE: 2 MAIN SPECIES OF Wisteria

#### **W. floribunda – Japanese Wisteria**

- flowers appear with leaves
- flowers open gradually from top to bottom of cluster, creating a long display
- best in full sun
- larger flowers than *W. sinensis*

#### **W. sinensis – Chinese Wisteria**

- flowers before leaves expand
- flowers open all at once, creating a shorter but more dramatic display
- shorter flower clusters than *W. floribunda*
- will bloom in considerable shade