



A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL PRUNING

Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar

*Bonnie Lee Appleton and Susan C. French**

Comments:

- 1.) Avoid pruning in late winter/early spring due to sap flow (more cosmetic than detrimental)
- 2.) Avoid pruning from spring through summer due to insect or disease problems
- 3.) Avoid pruning from October - December due to reduced cold hardiness
- 4.) Avoid pruning after July because flower buds have set



= Best time to prune



= Do not prune except to correct damage, hazards or structural defects

Where no



or



timing is not critical

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Ailanthus													
Alder	☺	☺									☺	☺	
Ash													
Bald Cypress													
Beech							☺	☺	☺				
Birch	☺										☺	☺	1,2
Buckeye					☺	☺	☺						4
Catalpa													
Cherry, Flowering						☺	☺						4
Chestnut, Chinese													
Crabapple					☺	☺	☺						4
Crape Myrtle	☺	☺	☺										3
Dogwood						☺	☺						4
Elm										☺	☺	☺	1,2
Fringe Tree						☺	☺						4
Gingko													

* Extension Nursery Specialist and Research Specialist, respectively; Virginia Tech

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Comments
Goldenraintree										☺	☺	☺	
Hackberry													2
Hawthorn						☺	☺						4
Hickory													
Honeylocust									☺	☺			
Horsechestnut					☺	☺	☺						4
Katsura													
Linden								☺	☺	☺			
Magnolia					☺	☺	☺						4
Maple					☺	☺	☺				☺	☺	1,2
Mimosa													
Mountain Ash													
Mulberry													
Nyssa, Black Gum													
Oak											☺	☺	2
Peach, Flowering						☺	☺						4
Pear, Flowering						☺	☺						4
Plum, Flowering & Purple						☺	☺						4
Poplar										☺	☺	☺	1
Redbud					☺	☺	☺						2,4
Serviceberry					☺	☺	☺						4
Sophora										☺	☺	☺	
Sourwood										☺	☺	☺	
Stewartia	☺											☺	
Sweetgum													
Sycamore, Plane													
Tuliptree													
Willow													1
Zelkova													

Exception: Timing varies across USDA climate zones - zones within Virginia range from 8a in the Virginia Beach area to 5b along the West Virginia border



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