

# WHEN TO PRUNE

Pruning is a very easy act, that many people fear. Technique and skill are part of the process, but timing is even more important. The list below is a generalized one. For more specific instructions, please ask one of our Virginia Certified Nurserymen for help.

**HOLLIES:** springtime after the new growth has emerged. If the holly has berries, you will lose some of the crop since you'll be pruning off the blooms for that season.

**AZALEAS/RHODODENDRON:** prune after they are done blooming

**CAMELLIAS:** prune after they are done blooming

**FRUIT TREES:** prune as soon as the fruit crop is finished for the season

**BOXWOOD:** prune in late winter early fall—use the cuttings for holiday decorations

**LIRIOPE:** cut back in early spring before new shoots emerge, easy to trim with a lawn mower or weedwhacker

**BLOOMING TREES:** prune when they are done blooming, or in very early fall. Late season pruning may affect the quantity or quality of blooms the following spring

**ROSES:** any time of year

**CRAPE MYRTLES:** prune any time of year, late spring is always good

**SHADE TREES:** prune in mid spring when new growth has started to emerge

There are some plants which either don't need pruning, or need very little.

Junipers, cedars, cypress, ornamental grasses and evergreen trees fall into these categories. A good rule of thumb concerning pruning is..... LESS IS BETTER. Very few plants look good with a severe haircut, or being trimmed into some kind of perfect shape. How often have you ever seen a perfectly round azalea growing in the wild? Probably not often. Keep your landscape looking natural, but somewhat restrained, with some careful pruning. We always recommend handpruning versus using electric pruners or trimmers. You have more control doing it by hand. For more information, feel free to call us at 360-2800, or stop by and see us one day.