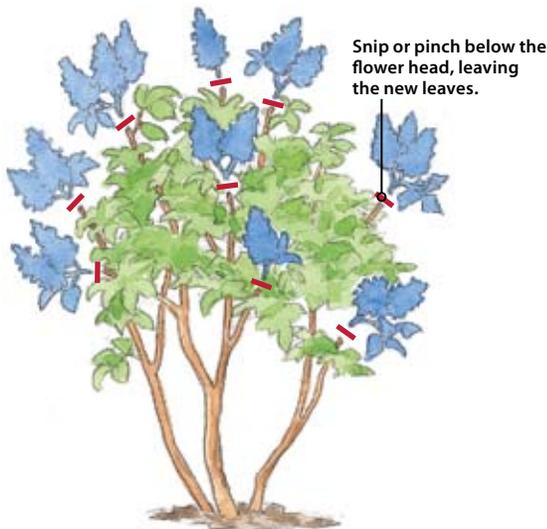
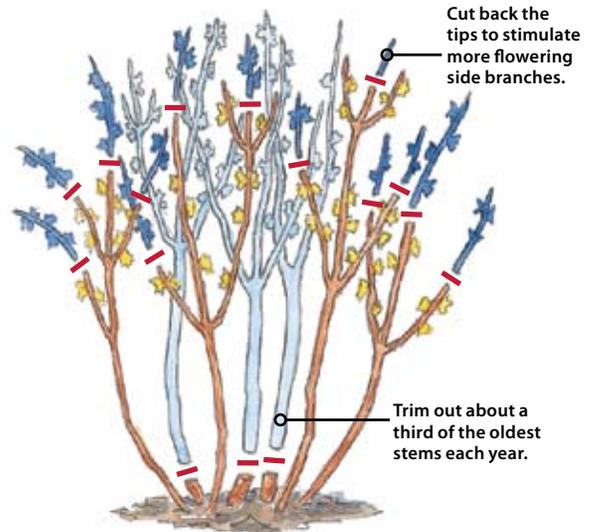


# GET MORE SPRING FLOWERS BY PRUNING

Want more flowers from your spring-blooming shrubs? It may sound odd, but in most cases the way to do it is by pruning. Pruning is not something to be afraid of. If you overdo it, you may lose the flowers for a year or two, but most shrubs are forgiving and will grow back. Don't take out enough and the shrub will also be fine, just not as showy as it might have been. The most important thing to remember is to prune at the right time. For spring-blooming shrubs, the time to cut is right after they finish flowering. That gives them the rest of the growing season to set new flower buds for a beautiful show next spring. Deadheading and thinning are the only two pruning techniques you need to know for the 38 shrubs I'll introduce you to here. □



**Deadheading** is the technique to use on shrubs with large flower heads, such as lilacs.



**Thinning** works best on shrubs that produce lots of flowers along their stems, such as forsythia.

## SPRING-BLOOMING SHRUBS — A PRUNING GUIDE

| Plant name                                                      | Blooms                            | Light                     | Height/<br>Width        | Cold/Heat<br>Zones | Deadhead                            | Thin                                | Tips                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Almond, flowering</b><br><i>Prunus glandulosa</i> 'Sinensis' | Pink;<br>early spring             | Full sun to<br>part shade | 4-5 ft./<br>3-4 ft.     | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin half or more to produce more branches to keep the plant as dense as possible                              |
| <b>Beautybush</b><br><i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>                 | Pink;<br>midspring                | Full sun                  | 6-10 ft./<br>6-10 ft.   | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin every spring to help prevent this plant from growing ragged and leggy                                     |
| <b>Camellia</b><br><i>Camellia japonica</i> and hybrids         | Red, pink, white;<br>early spring | Part shade                | 3-20 ft./<br>3-10 ft.   | 6-8/8-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Deadhead to keep the plant tidy, but don't worry if you can't reach them all; this shrub resents heavy pruning |
| <b>Chokeberry</b><br><i>Aronia</i> spp.                         | White;<br>spring                  | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-8 ft./<br>3-7 ft.     | 3-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin after blooming, however you'll lose the colorful late-season fruit                                        |
| <b>Currant, clove</b><br><i>Ribes odoratum</i>                  | Yellow;<br>early spring           | Full sun to<br>shade      | 6-12 ft./<br>6-8 ft.    | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin no more than a third to maintain the height; does produce some fruit, but it's not showy                  |
| <b>Daphne</b><br><i>Daphne xburkwoodii</i>                      | Pink;<br>midspring                | Part shade                | 3-4 ft./<br>3-6 ft.     | 5-8/8-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Remove dead wood first; shear lightly to deadhead and promote more flowering side branches                     |
| <b>Deutzia</b><br><i>Deutzia gracilis</i>                       | White;<br>early spring            | Full sun to<br>part shade | 1-3 ft./<br>1-5 ft.     | 5-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | For a natural look, thin up to half of the branches; for a compact habit, cut all stems to the ground          |
| <b>Dogwood, corneliancherry</b><br><i>Cornus mas</i>            | Yellow;<br>early spring           | Part shade to<br>full sun | 15-25 ft./<br>15-25 ft. | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thinning lets you see the small flowers easier, but it does reduce the bright red fall fruit                   |
| <b>Dogwood, redosier</b><br><i>Cornus sericea</i>               | White;<br>late spring             | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-9 ft./<br>3-10 ft.    | 3-7/7-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin to maintain height and flowering; cut all stems to the ground for the most red winter stems               |

| Plant name                                                             | Blooms                                         | Light                     | Height/<br>Width       | Cold/Heat<br>Zones | Deadhead                            | Thin                                | Tips                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Forsythia</b><br><i>Forsythia xintermedia</i>                       | Yellow;<br>early spring                        | Full sun to<br>part shade | 6-10 ft./<br>10-12 ft. | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cut a third to half of the old stems to the ground and shorten the rest each spring                        |
| <b>Forsythia, white</b><br><i>Abeliophyllum distichum</i>              | White;<br>early spring                         | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-5 ft./<br>3-4 ft.    | 5-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cut out up to half of the old wood each spring; in summer snip off a few tips to keep it looking tidy      |
| <b>Fothergilla</b><br><i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>                      | White;<br>midspring                            | Full sun                  | 3-4 ft./<br>3-4 ft.    | 5-8/8-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Deadhead back to a side branch to develop a fuller, more compact habit                                     |
| <b>Fringeflower</b><br><i>Loropetalum chinense</i>                     | Dark pink;<br>midspring                        | Part shade to<br>full sun | 4-10 ft./<br>4-10 ft.  | 7-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin lightly to maintain natural form; prune the ends of all stems to promote a more compact habit         |
| <b>Gardenia</b><br><i>Gardenia jasminoides</i>                         | White;<br>mid- to late spring                  | Part shade                | 3-5 ft./<br>3-5 ft.    | 7-11/11-1          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Flowers often drop off clean, but pinch out spent blossoms to keep the plant tidy                          |
| <b>Hawthorn, Indian</b><br><i>Rhaphiolepis umbellata</i>               | White;<br>late spring to summer                | Full sun to part<br>shade | 4-10 ft./<br>4-6 ft.   | 8-10/10-1          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Evergreen shrub needs only a light thinning to keep it tidy; black fruit hangs on through winter           |
| <b>Jetbead, black</b><br><i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>                    | White;<br>late spring                          | Full sun to<br>shade      | 3-6 ft./<br>4-9 ft.    | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Loose, arching habit; thin after it flowers to keep the plant tidy, however you'll forfeit the black fruit |
| <b>Kerria</b><br><i>Kerria japonica</i>                                | Yellow;<br>midspring                           | Full to part<br>shade     | 2-10 ft./<br>2-10 ft.  | 4-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin to help keep this loosely branched shrub tidy; stems are bright green even in winter                  |
| <b>Lilac, common</b><br><i>Syringa vulgaris</i>                        | Purple, pink, red, white;<br>midspring         | Full sun                  | 8-15 ft./<br>6-10 ft.  | 3-8/8-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Deadhead to keep tidy; thin up to a third of the stems every few years to reduce height                    |
| <b>Mockorange</b><br><i>Philadelphus hybrids</i>                       | White;<br>late spring                          | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-10 ft./<br>3-8 ft.   | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin out stems that are two years old or more; shorten other stems to produce more side branches           |
| <b>Mountain laurel</b><br><i>Kalmia latifolia</i>                      | Red, pink, white;<br>spring                    | Part shade                | 3-15 ft./<br>3-15 ft.  | 4-9/9-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Evergreen; deadhead spent flowers; don't thin more than a third of the branches if you need to rejuvenate  |
| <b>Ninebark</b><br><i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>                      | Pale pink, white;<br>late spring               | Full sun to<br>part shade | 1-8 ft./<br>2-8 ft.    | 2-7/7-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin several of the oldest stems to the ground each year; snip a few tips to grow more side branches       |
| <b>Pea shrub</b><br><i>Caragana arborescens</i>                        | Yellow;<br>midspring                           | Full sun to<br>part shade | 6-20 ft./<br>3-18 ft.  | 2-7/7-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin out oldest wood to keep the shrub flowering and fresh looking; can also be sheared for size           |
| <b>Pearlbush</b><br><i>Exochorda spp. and hybrids</i>                  | White;<br>midspring                            | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-15 ft./<br>3-15 ft.  | 5-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin up to half the stems to keep the loose form more dense and filled with flowers                        |
| <b>Pieris, Japanese</b><br><i>Pieris japonica</i>                      | White;<br>spring                               | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-12 ft./<br>3-8 ft.   | 5-9/9-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Evergreen; deadhead spent flowers to tidy the appearance                                                   |
| <b>Privet, Japanese</b><br><i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>                  | White;<br>late spring                          | Full sun to<br>shade      | 6-12 ft./<br>6-8 ft.   | 8-10/10-1          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin this evergreen for a casual, informal look; can be sheared into a formal style                        |
| <b>Pyracantha</b><br><i>Pyracantha coccinea</i>                        | White;<br>late spring                          | Full sun                  | 2-18 ft./<br>6-18 ft.  | 5-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin or train as an espalier; too much pruning reduces the amount of colorful fall fruit                   |
| <b>Quince, flowering</b><br><i>Chaenomeles japonica</i>                | Red, pink, white;<br>midspring                 | Full sun to<br>part shade | 4-8 ft./<br>4-10 ft.   | 5-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin after flowering; cut back tips of branches in summer to promote more flowers                          |
| <b>Rhododendron and azalea</b><br><i>Rhododendron spp. and hybrids</i> | Pink, red, white;<br>spring                    | Full sun to<br>part shade | 2-15 ft./<br>3-15 ft.  | 4-9/9-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Both evergreen and deciduous; deadhead; snip out errant stems at the same time to tidy the shape           |
| <b>Serviceberry</b><br><i>Amelanchier spp.</i>                         | White;<br>early spring                         | Full sun                  | 4-30 ft./<br>4-25 ft.  | 3-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin only lightly or you'll reduce the summer fruit                                                        |
| <b>Spicebush</b><br><i>Lindera benzoin</i>                             | Yellow;<br>early spring                        | Full sun to<br>part shade | 6-12 ft./<br>6-12 ft.  | 4-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thinning promotes more branches, but you will lose some of the bright red fall fruit                       |
| <b>Spirea, baby's breath</b><br><i>Spiraea thunbergii</i>              | White;<br>early to midspring                   | Full sun to<br>part shade | 3-5 ft./<br>3-5 ft.    | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin up to half to maintain height, or cut all stems to the ground to rejuvenate each spring               |
| <b>Spirea, bridalwreath</b><br><i>Spiraea prunifolia</i>               | White;<br>early to midspring                   | Full sun to<br>shade      | 4-9 ft./<br>6-8 ft.    | 4-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin out oldest stems and clip back other stems to promote more flowering side branches                    |
| <b>Spirea, vanhoutte</b><br><i>Spiraea vxanhouttei</i>                 | White;<br>late-spring                          | Full sun to<br>part shade | 5-8 ft./<br>6-10 ft.   | 3-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin out up to a third of the oldest stems; snip off tall stems to force more side branches                |
| <b>Sweetshrub</b><br><i>Calycanthus floridus</i>                       | Dark red;<br>late-spring                       | Full sun to<br>part shade | 5-10 ft./<br>5-10 ft.  | 4-9/9-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thin out a few of the oldest stems; to keep the shrub dense, also shorten back a few of the tips           |
| <b>Viburnum, doublefile</b><br><i>Viburnum plicatum tomentosum</i>     | White;<br>midspring                            | Full sun to<br>part shade | 8-15 ft./<br>10-18 ft. | 5-8/8-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Keep pruning to a minimum or you may ruin the layered habit this shrub is known for                        |
| <b>Viburnum, Koreanspice</b><br><i>Viburnum carlesii</i>               | Pale pink;<br>midspring                        | Full sun to<br>part shade | 4-6 ft./<br>4-6 ft.    | 4-8/8-1            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Deadhead back to a side branch; does produce fruit, but it's not showy                                     |
| <b>Winter hazel</b><br><i>Corylopsis glabrescens</i>                   | Yellow;<br>early spring                        | Full sun to<br>part shade | 8-15 ft./<br>8-15 ft.  | 5-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rarely needs much pruning, but a light thinning of upper branches will show off the flowers better         |
| <b>Witchhazel</b><br><i>Hamamelis xintermedia</i>                      | Yellow, orange;<br>late winter to early spring | Full to part<br>shade     | 6-20 ft./<br>6-15 ft.  | 5-8/8-1            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rarely needs much pruning; remove suckers and do a light thinning to show off the flowers better           |