



A Guide to Successful Pruning

Evergreen Tree Pruning Calendar

*Authored by Susan C. French, Extension Technician; Bonnie Lee Appleton, Extension Horticulturist,
and reviewed by Laurie J. Fox, Research Associate, Hampton Roads Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Virginia Tech*

Comments:

1. Seldom needs pruning - remove multiple leaders, dead and broken branches
2. Don't prune into old wood having no leaves or needles
3. Prune during growing season to make more compact or dense
4. To avoid reducing berry production, don't prune during bloom period
5. Prune to remove cankers
6. Flower buds set on previous season (old) wood; winter pruning will reduce spring flowering
7. Prune out reversions when they occur



= 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
Arborvitae													1,2,7
Atlas Cedar													1,2
Deodar Cedar													1,2,3
Chamaecyparis													1,2,7
Fir													1,2
Hemlock													1,2,3
Holly, evergreen													4,7
Juniper, Eastern Red Cedar													1,4
Leland Cypress													1,2,5
Magnolia, Southern													1,6
Oak, Live, Laurel													1
Pine													1,2,3
Spruce													1,3

*The authors would like to thank Brian O'Neil, Director of Living Landscapes and Les Parks, Director of Horticulture, Norfolk Botanical Garden for their review assistance.

Visit our website: www.ext.vt.edu

Produced by Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, 2021

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Virginia State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Edwin J. Jones, Director, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg; M. Ray McKinnie, Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg.

VT/0621/430-461 (SPES-324P)