**Sampson County Pruning Calendar**

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| **Month** | **Plants** | **Remarks** |
| **January** | Shade Trees: oak, hickory, beech, poplar, sycamore, ginkgo,  Bleeder trees: birch, dogwood, elm, maple | Prune undesired and storm damaged limbs. For bleeder trees heavy pruning should be done during the coldest weather. For light pruning of bleeder trees see July. |
| **February** | Fruit Trees: apple, pear, plum, cherry, peach & nectarine | Prune annually for best fruit production. See “Training and Pruning Fruit Trees in NC”. |
|  | Grapes | Prune annually to improve fruit production and to make the vine training easier. |
|  | Summer flowering shrubs: crape myrtle, rose of Sharon, butterfly bush, eleagnus, fall flowering hydrangeas | Prune if shrub like form is desired or if plants need shaping. |
|  | Ornamental Grasses: liriope, pampas grass, mondo grass, miscanthus, etc. | Trim annually. Important to trim off previous year’s growth before the spring growth begins. |
|  | Overgrown Broadleaf Shrubs: Ligustrum, boxwood, osmanthus, photinia, holly, cleyera, viburnum | Prune in late February to desired size. Rejuvenate by pruning out 1/3 of shrub each year. As a general rule try not to cut more than 1/3 of the bush in any year. |
|  | Camellia: Japonica and sasanqua | Prune any time after flowering but not later than July 10. |
|  | Crabapple | Prune out water sprouts and out-of-shape limbs |
|  | Mountain Laurel | Prune to desired shape. Cuts MUST be made prior to bud break in spring. |
|  | Conifers & Narrowleaf Evergreens: hemlock, juniper, arborvitae, leyland cypress | Trim away excess growth to improve shrubs appearance. Do not trim away all of the green foliage. |
| **March** | Rose | Prune annually for best flower production. Trim early in the month before new spring growth begins |
|  | Nandina | Prune as needed. Cut the leggy and oldest canes near the ground. New shoots will develop at the location of the pruning cuts. |
|  | Abelia | Shape plants to desired form early in March |
| **March** | Spring flowering shrubs: spirea, forsythia, flowring quince, loropetalum, breath-of-spring, weigela, lilac, etx | Prune IMMEDIATELY after flowering but before JULY 10. Cut oldest limbs near the ground level for constant rejuvenation of shrubs. |
| **April** | Azalea | Light pruning after flowering but not after JULY 10. Overgrown azaleas should be pruned in February, but you will have no blooms in spring. |
|  | Winter damaged plants | Cut out any cold damaged branches at the end of the month. |
|  | Berry producing shrubs: holly, pyracantha, etc | Prune while in flower to prevent removal of all berries. Shape to desired form. |
|  | Spring flowering trees: flowering cherry, Bradford pear, serviceberry, etc | Prune only as needed, IMMEDIATELY after blooming. |
| **May** | Rhododendron | Prune after flowering but not after JULY 10. Always prune to a whorl of leaves or to the next branch. Renovation pruning should be done in February. |
|  | Hedges: Privet, abelia, holly, euonymus, boxwood, etc | Prune as desired, always make top of hedge narrower than the bottom. |
| **June** | Conifers & Narrowleaf evergreens: hemlock, jumiper, arborvitae, white pine, leyland cypress | Shape plants to their desired size. Prune in late June through July. Trim only the new growth. White pines should be trimmed in summer (only new growth). |
|  | Gardenia | Prune immediately after bloom, not after AUGUST 10. |
|  | Perennials: phlox, shasta daisy, coneflower, rubeckia, etc | Remove old flowers to encourage re-bloom. |
|  | Chrysanthemums | Pinch out growth tips to make bushier plants, discontinue pinching around July 10. |
|  | Hydrangea: Big leaf or florist | Prune while flowering or immediately after. (Usually pink or blue flowers) |
|  | Fruit Trees | Remove water sprouts |
| **July-Aug** | Bleeder Trees: maple, birch, elm, styrax & dogwood | Perform light pruning as desired. |
|  | Rose | Prune leggy plants only and fertilize after pruning for fall flowering. |
|  | Hedges | As needed, keep bottom wider than tops |
|  | Brambles: Blackberry & raspberry | Prune out the wood that bore fruit, cutting canes near ground level. |
| **Sept – Oct** | Any plants | DO NOT PRUNE shrubs or trees in late summer or early autumn. You may remove any dead limbs from shrubs or trees. |
| **Nov – Dec** | Brush | Remove any underbrush as it is easy to see. |
|  | Berry Producing plants: holly, nandina, pyracantha, etc. | Use berries indoors or in wreaths as decorations. |

\*Special Note: Some trees should be allowed to let their lowest limbs grow until they sweep the ground. Those trees are Southern Magnolia, Deodora Cedar, American Holly, Hemlock, and White Pine.

For more information on gardening, landscapes, or pruning contact the Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Clinic at (910) 592-7161.