

Welcome!

Bates Nursery Botanical Boot Camp
Educational Webinar Series

What to Snip and

What to Skip

With Ben Trest

August 11, 2020

Please **mute** your microphone

We will take questions after the lecture via the **chat box**

Thank you for being understanding as we are starting our
webinar series on Zoom!

What to Snip and What to Skip

Summer Pruning



Why am I Pruning?

For **Plant Health**

- Removing dead/diseased portions of plant
- Removing crossing or crowding branches

For **Shape**

- Shearing and maintaining size
- Rejuvenation of entire plant to previous size

For **Blooms and Fruit** Production

- Deadheading for increased bloom production
- Trimming to increase stability and production of fruit trees



Does It Matter When I Prune?

Blooms and Berries

- Pruning just before flowering can remove blooms and fruit for a full season
- Pruning too close to spring/fall frost can damage buds and leaves
- If promoting wildlife, consider leaving spent blooms which produce seeds in the fall

Evergreens

- Light trimming can be done most times of the year on a healthy plant
- Avoid large cuts close to frost dates

Cut Flowers

- “Deadheading” can be done anytime, if fruit production is not desired
- Bonus! Great way to make seasonal arrangements and tidy up plants

Rule of Thumb:
Prune just after
flowering to assure
blooms for next year.

What to Snip and What to Skip

Focusing on summertime pruning

Mainly small trees, shrubs, and perennials

- Suggest a professional for any large cuts requiring power equipment

Early Summer is best for pruning

- It is getting late for heavy cut-backs, to avoid new growth during frost
- Light trimming and cutting flowers is o.k.

What to Snip

Roses

- Great time to snip those fading rose blooms
- Avoiding any stems with swelling buds
- Cut above a junction with **5 leaves** (or leaflettes)
- Leave large canes until winter cut-back



Hydrangeas

- Blooms may be removed if they are too heavy for stems
- Snip any blooms which are unsightly/faded
- Save any hard cut backs until late fall/winter

Topiary and Evergreens

- Light shearing on boxwood and needled evergreens
- Try to keep cuts under pencil size
- Shearing holly too late in summer can lead to possible frost damage.



What to Snip Perennials !



- This should be the bulk of your summer pruning
- Cutting initial blooms can give a longer season of color
- Secondary blooms tend to be smaller
- Many of these cut flowers last great in a vase to extend the color into your home
- Snip culinary herbs for cooking to thicken growth
- Leave blooms on plant for wildlife (eg. sunflower and coneflower)



Groundcovers and Vines

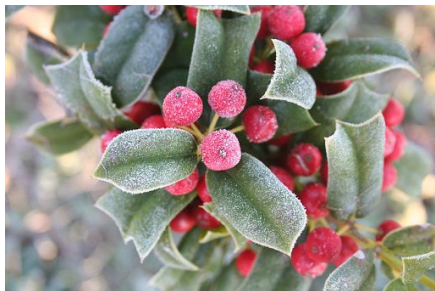
- Spreading vines such as Vinca minor (periwinkle) can be trimmed with a weed-eater or shears
- Groundcover grasses can be cut, avoid trimming close to frost

Rule of Thumb:
Keep trimming under
30% at a time, and
cuts smaller than
your thumb.
(when possible)

What to Skip

Large Leaf Evergreens

- Hollies, Laurels, Magnolia, etc.
- Tender new growth, close to frost, can get frost burn
- Pruning hollies now will remove berries for the winter (this is same for deciduous hollies)



Spring/Winter Blooming Shrubs

- Viburnum, Azalea, Lilac, Loropetalum, etc.
- Allow plants that bloom early in the year enough time to set buds
- Avoid heavy cut backs in late summer

Deciduous Trees

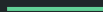
- Redbud, Cherry, Dogwood, etc.
- Removing large branches can reduce the flowers in spring
- Large cuts can stress trees before they go dormant



Next Topic

Hands-on Summer Pruning:
Tools and Methods

Thursday, August 13



Thank You!

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Questions?

Much of this information and more can be found at the University of TN Agriculture
Extension website:

https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_agexgard/48/

