

Let's Get Pruning!

It's not too late to get spring-blooming shrubs and vines in top shape for next year.



Photo: *B. Thryselius*

Once spring-blooming shrubs (*such as lilacs, forsythia, weigela and wisteria*) have flowered, it's important to assess and complete any pruning before next year's buds develop. Ideally, this pruning would happen soon after the blooms have faded. In the Boston area, that window would be up to July 4th. After that key date, however, gardeners should still take the time to thin out overgrown shrubs and vines and bring them into compliance (i.e., maintaining visible sightlines). Simple thinning and removal of dead wood does wonders for the look and growth of the plant. More mature shrubs and vines could all benefit by regular thinning and will not affect the overall health of the plant as long as *no more than a third of the overall plant* is removed.

At minimum, deadheading spent blooms will conserve energy and promote new growth, while neatening the plant's overall appearance.

For help with various shrub-pruning needs, the links below provide helpful online tutorials for taming overgrown lilacs, weigela and wisteria, with applicable techniques for most spring-blooming shrubs:

Lilacs

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension educator Marjorie Peronto demonstrates and discusses pruning techniques for your lilacs. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jyI4-FLRZc>

Three different ways of pruning lilacs depend on whether the plant is well-maintained, overgrown, or completely wild. Learn techniques for all situations with Gardener Scott at: https://www.google.com/search?q=lilac+pruning+video&oq=lilac+pruning+video+&aqs=chrome.69i59j0l2.4215j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#kpvalbx=_qJjXpK_I9WtytMPycinqAs43

Spring-flowering Shrubs

BBC Gardeners' World Magazine's David Hurrion explains how to prune a spring-flowering shrub, controlling its size and promoting flowering, in this practical video guide. <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/grow-plants/pruning-spring-flowering-shrubs/>

Wisteria

June / July Pruning with Burncoose Nurseries

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZuV5u5zh8go>

The FGS Tree Committee welcomes your comments and questions related to maintaining your trees and shrubs throughout the year. Email us directly at: trees@fenwayvictorygardens.org

The Fenway Garden Society Tree Committee

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