PRUNING ORNAMENTALS

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
SPRING FLOWERING DECIDUOUS SHRUBS AND TREES: Flowering quince, spirea, weigela, red bud, dogwood			Shape after blooming. Thin out old or weak branches.			Pinch off ends of new shoots on shrubs to encourage low, tight branching.						
SUMMER FLOWERING DECIDUOUS SHRUBS AND TREES: Althea, hydrangea, button-bush, chaste-tree, crape myrtle	Thin and shape while dormant. Remove old, weak growth at ground line. Retain natural shape of plant.					Remove sucker growth at base of trees. Clip off spent crapemyrtle blooms.						
DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES: Oak, maple, elm, birch, pistache	Do corrective pruning during dormant season. Remove weak angles, rubbing branches, diseased growth. Do not head back trees.					Remove lower branches for headroom as needed.						
EVERGREEN OR SEMI-EVERGREEN SHADE TREES: Live oaks, water oaks, magnolia	Do corrective pruning before Spring flush of growth. Do not head back.							Storm damaged limbs may be all removed when needed. Make all pruning cuts flush with trunk or major limb.				
FRUIT TREES: Peach, plum and flowering varieties	Remove 1/3 of old wood to encourage vigorous growth. Reduce remainder by 1/3. Make cuts to improve structure.					Prune young non-bearing trees to proper shape.						
BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUBS WITH FLOWERS: Azalea, camellia, gardenia, Indian hawthorne		Prune after plant has bloomed. Retain natural shape of plant.				Any additional pruning should be done before July 1.						
BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUBS WITH BERRIES: Holly, pyracantha, barberry, cotoneaster	Lightly thin during dormant season. Remove old or weak stems. Excessive pruning reduces fruit.											
OTHER BROADLEAF EVERGREENS: Ligustrum, pittosporum, photinia					Shape plant to desired form after new growth partially matures.							

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NEEDLE-LEAF EVERGREENS: Juniper, yew, pine			Cut new growth to shape it as it expands. Keep natural shape of plant. Do not shear back. Pinch out upright candles on pines as desired.			Shape new growth of vigorous yews and arbo-vitae. Preserve natural contours.					Prune if necessary for correction and repair.	