Burke County Pruning Calendar

JANUARY

Shade Trees:
Oaks, Hickory, Poplar, Gum, Beech, Ginkgo, etc.
Prune broken limbs. Do not prune “bleeder” trees (See July). Make cuts flush with trunk or limb.

FEBRUARY

Fruit Trees:
Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum, Peach, Nectarine
Prune annually for best fruit production.

Summer Flowering Shrubs:
Crape Myrtle, Rose of Sharon (Althea), Eleagnus, Butterfly Bush
Prune if shrublike form desired.

Ornamental Grasses:
Liriope (lily turf), Mondo Grass (Monkey Grass), Pampas Grass
Trim annually.

Overgrown Shrubbery:
Ligustrum (Privet), Osmanthus, Red-Tip Photinia, Holly, Boxwood, Cleyera, some Junipers, etc...
Prune late February to desired size. Try not to prune more than 1/3 total shrub.

Blueberries:
Established plants
Thin oldest canes to ground level.

Japonica Camellias and Sasanqua Camellias
Prune anytime after flowering. Never prune after July 4th.

Crabapple

Grapes
Prune annually so training is easier.

MARCH

Roses
Prune annually for showy flowers.

Nandina
Prune canes to ground level as needed.

Abelia
Shape to desired form early in March.

Spring Flowering Shrubs:
Forsythia (yellow bells), Spirea, Flowering Quince, Weigelia, Breath-of-Spring (winter honeysuckle), Lilac
Prune IMMEDIATELY after flowering. Do Not prune after July 4th. In general, prune limbs to ground level.

APRIL

Azaleas
Prune late in April AFTER flowering. Never prune after July 4th.

Winter Damaged Plants
Prune dead branches caused by cold weather in late April.
**Berry Producing Shrubs:**
Pyracantha, Buford Holly, other hollies, etc..... Prune while in flower to prevent removal of all berries.

**Spring Flowering Trees**
Prune only as needed IMMEDIATELY after blooming.

**MAY**

**Rhododendron**
Prune after flowering. Always prune to a whorl of leaves or the next branch. Do not prune after July 4th.

**Hedges:**
Privet, Abelia, Euonymus, Boxwood, Holly, etc..<br>Prune as needed. Always make top more narrow than bottom.

**JUNE**

**Narrowleaved Evergreens:**
Hemlock, White Pine, Juniper, Arborvitae, Yew, Cedar, etc...<br>In general, prune late in June and only into new growth.

**Hedges**
Prune as needed.<br>Removing old flowers on these perennials may encourage a second bloom.

**Perennial Flowers:**
Phlox, Shasta Daisies, Daylilies<br>Pinch as needed to make a bushier plant but discontinue pinching after July 10th.

**Chrysanthemums**
Prune whole flowering or immediately after.<br>Remove water sprouts.

**French or Florists Hydrangea**

**Fruit Trees**
Remove water sprouts.

**JULY – AUGUST**

**Bleeder Trees:**
Maple, Birch, Dogwood, Elm, etc..<br>Prune damaged limbs or trim as desired.

**Roses**
Prune leggy plants ONLY and fertilize after pruning for fall flowering.<br>As needed.

**Hedges**
Prune out the wood that bore fruit. Cut canes to ground level.<br>Prune to desired height

**Brambles:**
Blackberry and Raspberry

**Blueberries:**
Prune to desired height

**SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER**

**Any Plants**
Remove any deadwood on trees and shrubs.<br>Cut flowers to be enjoyed inside.<br>Remove any underbrush now, it is less noticeable.

**Camellias**

**Holly, Nandina, Pyranth, Pyracantha, etc...**

**TAKE A REST UNTIL JANUARY**

**NOTE:**
Some trees should be allowed to let their limbs grow until they sweep the ground: Southern Magnolia, Deodar Cedar, American Holly, Hemlock and White Pine are among the ones commonly found in Burke County.