



## A Guide to Successful Pruning, Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar

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## **Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar**

## Legend:

\* = Best time to prune

x = Do not prune except to correct damage, hazards, or structural defects

- = Timing is not critical

## Comments

Seldom needs pruning - remove multiple leaders, dead and broken branches

1. Avoid pruning in late winter/early spring due to sap flow (more cosmetic than detrimental)
  2. Avoid pruning from spring through summer due to insect or disease problems
  3. Avoid pruning from October - December due to reduced cold hardiness
  4. Avoid pruning after July because flower buds have set



Nyssa, Black Gum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oak	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	*	*	2	
Peach, Flowering	X	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	4	
Pear, Flowering	X	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	4	
Plum, Flowering and Purple	X	X	X	X	X	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	4	
Poplar	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	1	
Redbud	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	2,4	
Serviceberry	X	X	X	X	*	*	*	X	X	X	X	X	4	
Sophora	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	*	*	*		
Sourwood	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	*	*	*		
Stewartia	*	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	*		
Sweetgum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Sycamore, Plane	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Tuliptree	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Willow	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Zelkova	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		

**Exception:** Timing varies across USDA climate zones - zones within Virginia range from 8a in the Virginia Beach area to 5b along the West Virginia border.

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