



Prune Fruit at the Right Time

The following dates are guidelines for home gardeners to use for pruning small and tree fruits. Deviating very far from the suggested periods may increase risks of damage.

If the extended weather forecast is calling for temperatures below 0°F, stop pruning any fruit bush, cane, tree or vine for three to four days before to the cold spell. Wait two to three days after the temperature is above 10°F to resume pruning, regardless of type of fruit being pruned.

Apple

February to April: Prune before start of growth.

Peach

March to late April: Prune before blossoms show color.

Cherry

March to April: Prune before start of growth.

Plum

March to April: Prune before start of growth.

Pear

February to April: Prune before growth begins.

Blueberry

March to middle of April: Prune before growth begins.

Grape

March to early April: Prune vines before new growth begins. When grape vines are pruned on warm spring days, excess sap may flow at pruning cuts. This excess sap flow will not harm vines.

Black Raspberry

March to early April: Before new growth begins, prune side shoots to a length of 10 to 12 inches. For a less vigorous bush, prune shoots to a length of 4 to 6 inches.

Late May to late June: Thin new shoots and pinch back or cut off to a height of 24 to 30 inches from the ground.

July to August: Remove old fruiting canes immediately after crop has been harvested.

Summer Red Raspberry

March to early April: Prune before growth starts; thin canes to 8 to 10 per foot of row by removing the thin weak canes. Also prune any winter-killed tips of the fruiting canes.

July to early August: Remove old fruiting canes immediately after the crop has been harvested.

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