## SUSTAINABLE SHRUB PRUNING

Sustainable Shrub Pruning, also known as Rejuvenation Pruning, is a widely-recognized industry standard practice for maintaining shrubs. This practice keeps shrubs at a reasonable size without the need for detrimental and harmful shearing. It also results in a fresher, more natural look.

## **Shear Pruning**

Shear pruning is when plants are frequently cut back into unnatural plant shapes — cones, balls, flat tops, cylinders, etc. — throughout the growing season. Every few weeks, outer branches that grow outside the designated shape are cut off using a power trimmer. This practice is detrimental to the health of the plant. Because leaves are where plants store their energy, frequently shearing off leaves means the plant is routinely losing its energy reserves. This means the plant needs to use more resources and energy to regrow the lost foliage. This leads to more water use.

In addition, frequent shearing damages the plant in the longterm. Many sheared shrubs only have leaves on the very outside while the interior of the plant is bare. Over time, the frequent stress put on the plant through shearing weakens the plant and can eventually lead to death.

## **Sustainable Pruning**

Conversely, Sustainable Shrub Pruning calls for trimming shrubs back to roughly half their size once or twice a year and then leaving the shrub to grow naturally in between prunings. Minor pruning is also done as necessary to any shrubs that encroach on streets, sidewalks or driveway areas or obstruct lines of sight at intersections, near road signs, or through windows.

This type of pruning is recommended by the Arizona Landscape Contractors' Association as well as the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association. In addition to being healthier for the plant, Sustainable Shrub Pruning can also boost curb appeal. It leads to more vibrant green foliage and allows residents to enjoy more seasonal blooms because plants are not being trimmed during their flowering season.



Seasonal Pruning stimulates natural growth and produces more



This healthy Sage reached its peak size at the end of the growing season.



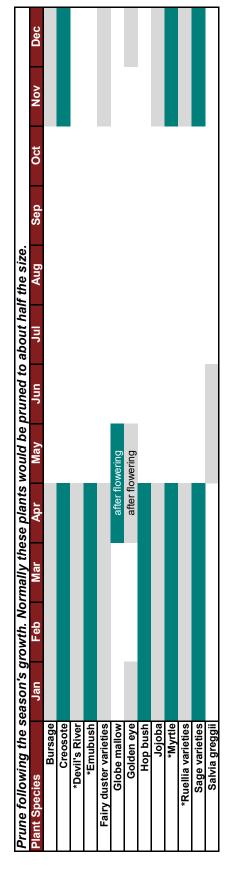
During shrub renovation, plants are cut back to roughly 12"-18" above

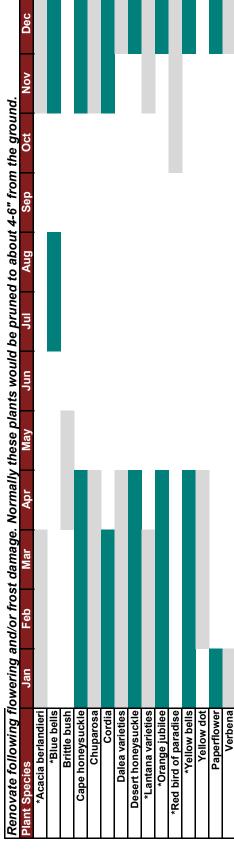






## **DESERT MOUNTAIN SUGGESTED PLANT PRUNING SCHEDULE**





Selectively prune as necessary to reduce	necessary	to reduce	e size or re	size or remove flower stalks.	ver stalks.							
Plant Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Angelita daisy				ď	rune flower st	alks at the ba	se once bloc	Prune flower stalks at the base once blooms are spent				
Banana yucca					Remove dead stalks	ead stalks						
Deer grass				Remov	e stems at the	e base to kee	p in growth s	Remove stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary	sary			
Desert spoon				Remo	ve dead frond	s at base to	eep fronds u	Remove dead fronds at base to keep fronds up from the ground	nnd			
Desert milkweed		Cut to	Cut to ground if needed	pape								
Fountain grass				Remov	e stems at the	e base to kee	p in growth s	Remove stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary	ssary			
Ocotillo					Remove	Remove canes at the base as necessary	base as nec	essary				
Penstemon					Remove dead stalks	ead stalks						
Red/Yellow yucca		Remov	e stems at the	e base to kee	p in growth s	pace as nece	ssary. Prune	e stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary. Prune flower stalks at base when blooms are spent	at base whe	n blooms are	spent	
Regal mist				Remov	e stems at the	e base to kee	p in growth s	Remove stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary	sary			
Soaptree yucca					Remove dead stalks	ad stalks						
Sugar sumac				Remov	e stems at the	e base to kee	p in growth s	Remove stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary	sary			
Turpentine Bush				Prune to the	e base to thin	plant out (ca	n renovate e	Prune to the base to thin plant out (can renovate entire plant if necessary)	cessary)			
										*Private h	*Private homeowner areas only.	areas only.