

The Growing Season

During the summer growing season, shrubs are lush, healthy, and blooming. When cool fall and winter temperatures set in, our desert shrubs slow their growth dramatically. During November through April, the shrubs on our properties are seasonally pruned to reduce their size before the next year's growing season.

Some landscape management providers choose to shear shrubs into shapes such as cones, balls, flat tops, or beer kegs throughout the growing season. The advantage to the landscape provider is that employees need little training, knowledge, or supervision to simply shear every plant on the property each time they are in an area. However, this practice is detrimental to the health of the plant as the plant requires more water to recover its lost foliage.



Seasonal Pruning stimulates natural growth and produces more blooms

Proper Pruning

At DLC Resources, our approach is different. Our Seasonal Shrub Renovation Program consists of trimming shrubs back to roughly half their size. On some species, like the Red Bird of Paradise, even more pruning is needed. This type of pruning permits plants to grow back into their space during the following growing season.

In addition, shrub renovation pruning allows residents to enjoy the seasonal color of common area plants because they are not being trimmed during their flowering season. Shrubs that encroach on streets or sidewalks, or obstruct lines of sight at intersections and near road signs, are pruned as necessary.



Constant shearing on flowering plants throughout the growing season results in declining health and fewer blooms



During shrub renovation, plants — like this Sage — are cut back to roughly 12"-18" above ground



This Sage was renovated in fall and grew back naturally into its allotted space





Shrub Pruning Schedule

Prune following the season's growth. Normally these plants would be pruned to about half the size.

Plant Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bursage												
Creosote												
Devil's River												
Emubush												
Fairy duster varieties												
Globe mallow				after flowering								
Golden eye				after flowering								
Hesperaloe				Do NOT trim during Sept. & Oct.								
Hop bush												
Joboba												
Myrtle												
Ruellia varieties												
Sage varieties												
Salvia greggii												

Renovate following flowering and/or frost damage. Normally these plants would be pruned to about 4-6" from the ground.

Plant Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Acacia berlandieri												
Blue bells												
Brittle bush												
Cape honeysuckle												
Chuparosa												
Cordia												
Dalea varieties												
Desert honeysuckle												
Lantana varieties												
Orange jubilee												
Red bird of paradise												
Yellow bells												
Paperflower												
Verbena												

Selectively prune as necessary to reduce size or remove flower stalks.

Plant Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Angelita daisy												
Banana yucca												
Desert spoon												
Desert milkweed												
Lavender												
Ocotillo												
Penstemon												
Red/Yellow yucca												
Rosemary												
Soaptree yucca												
Sugar sumac												
Turpentine Bush												

