PROPER SHRUB PRUNING



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



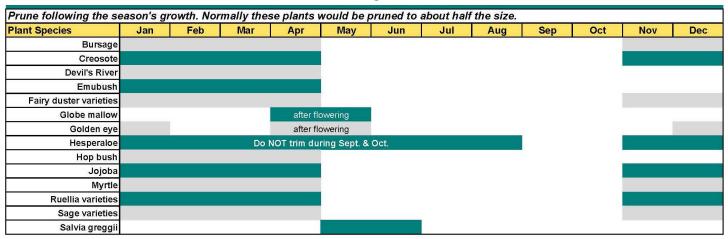
During shrub renovation, plants — like this Sage — are cut back to roughly 12"-18" above ground

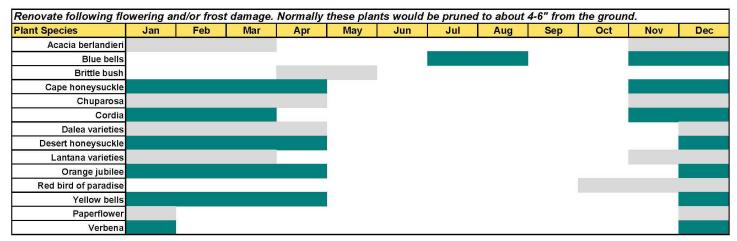


This Sage was renovated in fall and grew back naturally into its allotted space



Shrub Pruning Schedule





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		Prune flower stalks at the base once blooms are spent											
Banana yucca	Remove dead stalks												
Desert spoon	Remove dead fronds at base to keep fronds up from the ground												
Desert milkweed		Cut t	Cut to ground if needed										
Lavender				Cut back	by a third								
Ocotillo	Remove canes at the base as necessary												
Penstemon	Remove dead stalks												
Red/Yellow yucca	Remove stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary. Prune flower stalks at base when blooms are spent												
Rosemary		Trim as needed away from curbs and sidewalks											
Soaptree yucca		Remove dead stalks											
Sugar sumac		Remove stems at the base to keep in growth space as necessary											
Turpentine Bush		Prune to the base to thin plant out (can renovate entire plant if necessary)											