

Rancho San Rafael Pollinator Garden
Pruning Instructions

January 2023

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Quick Reference

Pollinator Garden Maps

References

NOTES

Why do we prune? Prune to promote health, provide air circulation, maintain a desirable shape, and remove dead or damaged branches.

Mulching: Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates.

Safety: Wear gloves and long sleeves when pruning. Some of the plants have sap, thorns, or little hairs that can become irritating to the skin.

Cleaning tools: Clean and sanitize a pair of sharp, sturdy bypass shears before using them to prune. Scrub them in hot soapy water to remove any large particles of plant matter. Rinse them thoroughly with clean hot water and wipe the blades with a 70 percent solution of isopropyl alcohol before making each cut.

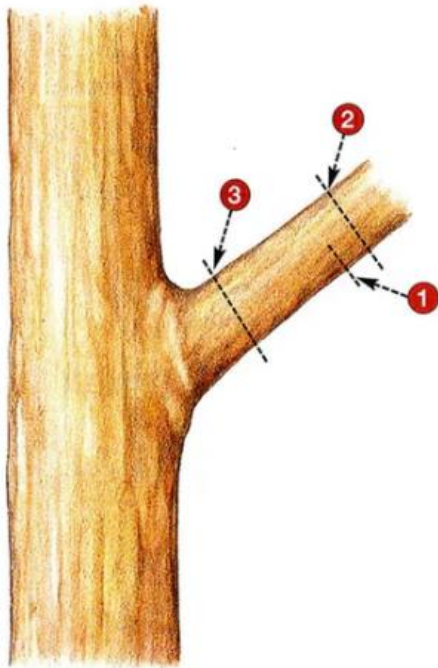
Plant knowledge:

As an *herbaceous perennial*, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

As an *evergreen perennial*, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

Three-cut tree branch removal:

Damaged limbs and branches should be pruned immediately to prevent disease.



three-cut branch removal

To prune a tree limb cleanly and safely, use a pruning saw and make these three sequential cuts:

- 1** On the bottom of the limb between 6 and 12 inches from the trunk; cut about one-quarter of the way through.
- 2** Through the limb from the top, starting about 1 inch beyond the first cut. (The weight of the branch may cause it to snap off before the cut is complete.)
- 3** Completely through the short remaining stub from top to bottom just beyond the swollen branch collar. (Support the stub while sawing, to make a clean cut.)

Celebration Maple

Species: *Acer freemanii* 'Celebration'

Count: 2

When to prune: Summer*

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Early spring

A deciduous tree with a narrowly upright and columnar growth habit. Should only be pruned in the summer after its leaves have fully developed. Do NOT prune in late winter or early spring, as it may 'bleed' sap. **Start trimming trees in their third summer (2024).*

When the leaves are fully developed, the less likely sap is to ooze from the pruning site. In late winter, when the days are warm and the nights are cold, root pressure causes sap to flow from any wound made in the bark of the tree.



Coronation Gold Yarrow

Species: Achillea 'Coronation Gold'

Count: 6 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Late fall

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer

An herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Best when cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. This herbaceous perennial will usually die back to the crown each winter and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen. Cut back the yarrow to within 6 inches of the ground after flowering. In colder climates, cut it back as one of the last chores in your garden before the snow flies. Pruning, or cutting back, the whole plant to a set of basal leaves in the fall, deadhead spent flowers. take a pair of pruning shears and cut the stem back above a lateral bud. Cut the flower stem back to right above the spot where a branching or lateral, flower shoots off to the side. Prune the central stems of the yarrow if they begin to die back.



Common Yarrow

Species: *Achillea millefolium*

Count: 18 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Late fall/ early winter

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer

An herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Best when cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen. Prune back to the basal leaves again in late fall or early winter. The basal leaves will help protect the yarrow plant during the winter.



Indian Ricegrass

Species: *Achnatherum hymenoides*

Count: 28 Size when planted: 12"

When to prune: Fall then early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Late spring

A fast-growing deciduous grass with an upright form of growth. This grass can be mowed to 8 inches in early fall. Wait till the end of winter/early spring to cut down to 3 inches. Turns tan when dormant.



Blue Boa Giant Hyssop

Species: *Agastache* 'Blue Boa'

Count: 9 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer to fall

An open herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Best cut in early spring, cut plant down to 2 in. Make the cut just above a pair of leaves to encourage heavy branching. Deadhead spent flowers to promote additional growth.



Serviceberry

Species: *Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance'

Count: 4 Size when planted: 10'

When to prune: Late winter or early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Early spring

This is an open deciduous tree with a slightly rounded form. Best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. In the first 3 years only prune dead or weak branches. Then, prune in late winter or early spring before budbreak. Leaving some old growth is important, as the flowers form on old wood.



Powis Castle Artemisia

Species: Artemisia 'Powis Castle'

Count: 13 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late summer to fall

An herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Prune plants before new growth starts in the spring and leave 12-18 inches. Never prune stems to the ground. Foliage may also be lightly sheared in the summer to shape. Any major pruning should be done in the spring after the new buds begin growing. Make any pruning cuts above the new bud growth. Never cut stems back into woody growth or cut them all the way to the ground. Plants that get lanky or begin to fall during the summer can be cut back by 1/3.



Silver Brocade Artemisia

Species: *Artemisia stelleriana* 'Silver Brocade'

Count: 13 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Early spring and midsummer

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Spring

Dense low growing deciduous herbaceous perennial with a mounded form habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Trim in early spring and mid-summer. This plant will usually die back to the crown each winter and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in both summer and winter to conserve soil moisture and protect it in colder microclimates. Cut back stems or leaves that grow in an unnatural direction. For example, remove stems that grow downward or back towards the center of the plant. Cross-directional stems may rub against other stems and cause a weak section in the plant. Weak or damaged stems make the Silver Brocade susceptible to disease or pest invasions. Clip back hard in mid-summer, when stems begin to grow upright, to maintain a low mat-like effect.



Sage Brush

Species: *Artemisia tridentata*

Count: 10 Size when planted: 3'-5'

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Summer

A multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Pruning in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Only needed to maintain the desired shape. Thinning out the plants a little bit to improve the airflow and prevent these diseases.



Purple Dome Aster

Species: *Aster novae-angliae* 'Purple Dome'

Count: 18 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late summer to late fall

Dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. This plant will usually die back to the crown each winter and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen.

Trim the entire plant down to within a few inches of the ground in the spring when you start to see new green growth emerge from the ground at the base of the plant. The old stems can be left to stand all winter long. Pinching back the plants once or twice earlier in the growing season delays the bloom time by a few weeks and keeps the plant even more compact. Not necessary. To pinch back, trim off the top 2-3 inches of every stem once in late May and again in early July. Do not pinch any later. This extends the blooming season into late October.



Dark Knight Bluebeard

Species: *Caryopteris x clandonensis* 'Dark Knight'

Count: 13 Size when planted: 48"

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late summer to early fall

An open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Early Spring the plant should be cut down by at least half (12-18 inches without harm). Remove the dead stalks in spring when new growth is beginning. Additional snipping can be done after the first flower flush fades a little but only remove the spent flowers.



Red Valerian

Species: *Centranthus ruber*

Count: 11 Size when planted: 30"

When to prune: Summer to fall

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Early summer to fall

An herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Will require regular care and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. Cut back to 6-8 inches in late summer/fall (once the leaves have wilted) to stimulate new growth and help overwintering. Don't prune again until spring clean-up.



Tickseed

Species: *Coreopsis grandiflora* 'Sunkiss'

Count: 18 Size when planted: 16"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late spring to late summer

An herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Deadhead to prolong flowering. Cut back to 2-3 inches above the ground in Spring. If you must cut back for winter, cut down to 4-6 inches above the ground. This allows the stems to provide a bit of insulation from the cold.



Red-Twig Dogwood

Species: *Cornus sericea* 'Baileyi'

Count: 3 Size when planted: 10'

When to prune: Late spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Late spring

A multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a rounded form. Should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Tends to have clusters of white flowers at the ends of the branches in late spring. Late winter to early spring. Remove 1/3rd of the oldest branches by cutting at the base of the shrub. Remove old growth, maintain the shape, and allow air to circulate. Cut low-lying branches.

Every 2-3 years in early spring cut all branches to the ground as an alternative to annual pruning.



Coneflower 'PowWow Wild Berry'

Species: *Echinacea purpurea* 'PowWow Wild Berry'

Count: 10 Size when planted: 18"

When to prune: Late fall

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Midsummer to early fall

An herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. We strongly recommend pruning the entire plant down to a height of 3" - 4" after the first frost, and then covering with a healthy layer of composted leaves / pine needles, etc. for extra insulation over the winter. Remove composted leaves / pine needles in early spring. Cutting back the dormant stalks and seed heads in the fall will also decrease the chance of the plant naturalizing or spreading.



Rubber Rabbitbrush

Species: *Ericameria nauseosa*

Count: 35 Size when planted: 4'-6'

When to prune: Spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Summer, fall

An open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. Cut back to several inches in spring to increase ornamental value. Best cleaned up in spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Pruning is best done in late winter to early spring before new growth appears. Pruning in deep winter can weaken the plant and eventually kill it. The simplest pruning technique is to shear the entire plant back by about one-quarter to one-third its total height, making a rounded shape. “Renewal” pruning occasionally—once every few years or so—can be achieved by cutting back harder, up to one-half or more of the total plant size. Do not do this yearly or you will shorten the plant life span.



Sulphur Flower Buckwheat

Species: *Eriogonum umbellatum*

Count: 58 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Spring*

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Summer, fall

Herbaceous evergreen perennial with a rounded, mounded, and spreading form of growth. Pruning is not needed. But if desired you can **deadhead spent flower stalks in early Spring.*



Apache Plume

Species: *Fallugia paradoxa*

Count: 5 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Late winter to early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Summer semi-deciduous

Flowering season: Spring

A multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. These shrubs once established will require a low level of irrigation. Prune regularly to provide air circulation and maintain a desirable shape. Prune after the blooms are spent. Remove 1/3rd of the oldest branches by cutting them at the base of the shrub. The leaves will look best on younger stems, so cut the oldest woody stems to the ground to rejuvenate. This shrub can be cut back to six inches every other year or so to make it look tidier.



Blanket Flower ‘Arizona Sun’

Species: Gaillardia x grandiflora 'Arizona Sun'

Count: 13 Size when planted: 10"-12"

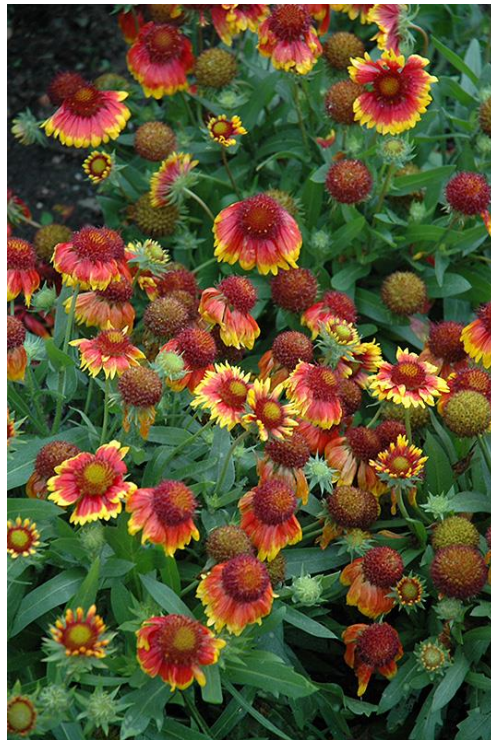
When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer

A dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Blanket flower benefits from deadheading at any time during the flowering season after the blooms have begun to wilt. Deadhead by pinching back the flower stems to the topmost leaf. In late summer if flowering begins to decline, cut back the entire plant by about 1/3 its height using sharp pruning shears.



Red/Texas Yucca

Species: *Hesperaloe parviflora*

Count: 3 Size when planted: 4'-6'

When to prune: Spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer, fall

An herbaceous showy evergreen perennial with a shapely form and gracefully arching foliage. Best cleaned up in early spring. As an evergreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round. Pruning yucca stalks after the flowers fade or when the seed pods are still green. Snip off the flower stalks close to the base at a 45-degree angle; just be careful not to snip the surrounding foliage. Remove dead or damaged growth any time of year, but Springtime is best. Carefully push aside the surrounding foliage to expose the base of the dead leaf. Snip off dead foliage near the bottom, 1/2 inch from the base.



Red-hot Poker

Species name: *Kniphofia hirsuta* 'Fire Dance'

Count: 6 Size when planted: 20"-24"

When to prune: Spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Midsummer

An herbaceous evergreen perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deadhead spent flowers. Snip off the stem just below the spent blossom; or at the end of the season remove entire stalk down to the base. *Do not prune after September 1st*, must protect the plant from any chance of frost. In Springtime trim back dead foliage to the base with a pruner.



Lavender 'Munstead'

Species: *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead'

Count: 9 Size when planted: 18"

When to prune: Spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Spring

A dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Can be pruned at any time. Hard prune once at the start of spring. Deadheading in the summer will promote more flowers. Remove shoots to within one inch of previous year's growth.



Great Basin Wildrye

Species: *Leymus cinereus* *also called* *Elymus cinereus*

Count: 29 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Late fall

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Late summer

Flowering season: Early spring

Large cool-season ornamental perennial bunch grass. Begins to turn dormant in late summer. Spiked seed head grow on tall stems above the clump. In late fall, once the plant is dormant, use hand pruners or hedger to cut and remove 2/3 of the total grass height. Cut stems to no shorter than a foot tall.



Twinberry (Honeysuckle)

Species: *Lonicera involucrata*

Count: 4

When to prune: Late winter, early spring*

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Summer

Deciduous upright perennial ornamental shrub. Prune dead, diseased, or rubbing branches. Pruning is best done in late winter to early spring for most shrubs. With spring-blooming shrubs, prune after the blooms are spent. Remove up to 1/3rd of the overall shrub, keeping older branches to build up a sturdy, permanent and picturesque framework. **Prune lightly in the first three years.* In subsequent years, reduce stems to a pair of strong buds and cutting up to one-fifth of older stems to ground level.



Beebalm 'Grand Parade'

Species: *Monarda didyma* 'Grand Parade'

Count: 12 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Late fall

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Midsummer

Herbaceous showy perennial with a mounded form. Should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deadhead flowers to prolong summer bloom, and to prevent self-seeding. Prune in late fall (after the first freeze), cut the entire plant back to 1-2 inches tall. Add 3-6 inches layer of straw or pine needles (mulch). Deadhead as the flowers begin to fade for more blooms. You can pinch back young plants/new spring growth when it reaches 1 foot tall, cutting it back to 6 inches tall. This encourages side growth and a manageable size.



Beebalm 'Rockin' Raspberry'

Species: Monarda 'Rockin' Raspberry'

Count: 6 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Late fall

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Midsummer

An herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage new blooms. Should be cut to the ground after flowering to promote the growth of new healthy shoots and leaves. To prevent this fungus from appearing, large clumps should be thinned out so that the air circulates freely around them. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!



Whispurr Blue Catmint

Species: *Nepeta x faassenii* 'Balpurrlu'

Count: 21 Size when planted: 21"-24"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Midspring to midsummer

A dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth. Trim plants in mid-Summer for repeat flowering in Fall. Deadheading or shearing your plants (after initial bloom) will produce stockier plants and a lush second bloom. Plant will go dormant in the winter and bounce back in the spring. In Early Spring cut all the dead foliage and stems to within 4-6 inches of the ground.



Walkers Low Catmint

Species: *Nepeta x faassenii* 'Walker's Low'

Count: 15 Size when planted: 12"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: June to October

A dense herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth. Shear after flowers fade to promote rebloom. Shear the plant back in spring for more compact habit. Wait after a few frosts in Fall for the plant to go dormant. Cut back the entire plant to ground level. Spread a thick layer of mulch around plants roots, leaving a 2" gap between the mulch and base of the plant.



Evening Primrose 'Siskiyou Mexican'

Species: *Oenothera berlandieri* 'Siskiyou'

Count: 39 Size when planted: 26"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: High

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late spring to early fall

An herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. *Do NOT prune plants after Sept. 1st.* Once plants have died to the ground, cut back to 4" above the ground. Leave the entire plant through winter and cut back in Early Spring. Snip off faded blooms individually or wait until blooming period is over to remove entire flower stalk down to the base of the plant.



Heavy Metal Blue Switch Grass

Species: *Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal'

Count: 8

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Midsummer

An herbaceous perennial grass with an undistinguished habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Prune in late winter/early spring. Remove 2/3 of the total grass height.



Firecracker Penstemon

Species: *Penstemon eatonii*

Count: 12 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Spring, summer

An upright herbaceous showy evergreen perennial. Prune flowers right after they fade to produce more growth. Gently bunch the flower spikes together with one hand and cut them off at the point where they go down into the mat of foliage with your clipper in the other hand. Be careful not to cut into the plant's base itself. Cut in April or May once signs of new growth have started. Prune all foliage about 1/3 of the way to the plant's base in fall to encourage it to bush out, but also protect it from cold temperatures.



Palmer's Penstemon

Species: Penstemon Palmeri

Count: 37 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Evergreen, summer semi-deciduous

Flowering season: Spring

An upright herbaceous showy evergreen perennial. Deadhead any spent flowers by gently bunch the flower spikes together with one hand and cut them off at the point where they go down into the mat of foliage with your clipper in the other hand. Pruning best done in spring.



Royal Penstemon

Species: *Penstemon speciosus*

Count: 30 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Spring, summer

An upright clump-forming herbaceous perennial. Trim down stems by 1/3 in the fall to protect in the winter, then cut the remaining foliage back hard in spring after the last frost. Prune one-third off each stem's height in the fall to winterize. Make the cut at a 45-degree angle. Trim growths that are dead or don't have new shoots down to the base. Do this in Spring.



Russian Sage

Species: *Perovskia atriplicifolia*

Count: 18 Size when planted: 30"-3'

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer, fall

An herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Best cut back to the ground in late winter before active growth resumes. When new spring growth begins to emerge, prune out any dead branches and cut the old stems back to just above the lowest set of leaves.

Alternatively, before new growth appears, you can cut it down to the ground. This will give it a bushier and fuller look.



Creeping Phlox 'Emerald Blue'

Species: Phlox subulata 'Emerald Blue'

Count: 20

When to prune: Late spring to early summer

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Spring

A dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Flowers from early to late spring. Prune in late spring or early summer immediately after the plants have finished flowering. Trim 1 to 3 inches from the stem tips. Cut out dead or damaged stems as they occur throughout the growing season. Apply a 3-inch-deep layer of mulch just after the first ground freeze. Remove the mulch in the spring when new growth emerges.



Creeping Phlox 'Scarlet Flame'

Species: Phlox subulata 'Scarlet Flame'

Count: 73 Size when planted: 15"

When to prune: Late spring to early summer

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Spring

A dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Prune in late spring or early summer immediately after the plants have finished flowering. Trim 1 to 3 inches from the stem tips. Cut out dead or damaged stems as they occur throughout the growing season.



Desert Peach

Species: *Prunus andersonii*

Count: 3 Size when planted: 5'-8'

When to prune: Mid to late spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Spring

Multi-stemmed deciduous perennial shrub in the rose family with an upright spreading habit of growth. Should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Flowers in the springtime. Typical flowering season is from March - May.



Canada Red Choke Cherry

Species: *Prunus Virginiana* 'Canada Red'

Count: 3

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Regular

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Spring

A single or multi-stemmed deciduous tree with a slightly rounded form. Best pruned in later winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Cut any suckers that appear around the roots. Cut the shoots back to the points they originate from on the crown. Remove damaged, dry, or diseased limbs, along with crossing or wayward branches to increase the airflow through the tree's canopy. Training as a tree, the center of the plant should be thinned to keep it open for air circulation. When trained as a shrub, renewal pruning, removing about one third of the old growth, will ensure 1-year old wood for continuous production. Either way, low spreading branches should be removed. Remove older, weaker wood annually. Inspect the tree for symptoms such as knots or bumps on small branches that indicate the presence of the fungal disease called black knot. Cut the infected limb 2 to 5 inches below each knot, immediately discard the severed limbs in a sealed garbage bag. Apply pruning paste to cover any wounds. Foliage emerges green in spring, and changes to a deep purple in summer.



Schipka Cherry Laurel

Species: *Prunus laurocerasus* 'Schipkaensis'

Count: 26 Size when planted: 5 gal.

When to prune: Early summer

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy:

Flowering season: Mid-Spring

A dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a more or less rounded form. This shrub should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Does not like being severely pruned. Showy fragrant white flowers come out in mid spring. Cherry-like glossy red fruits ripen to a purple-black by fall, ***DO NOT EAT! This plant is toxic to dogs, cats, horses, and humans.***



Bitterbrush

Species: *Purshia tridentata*

Count: 6 Size when planted: 4'-6'

When to prune: Late winter or early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Summer semi-deciduous

Flowering season: Spring, winter

Perennial deciduous shrub with semi-evergreen leaves and an upright, mounding form. Don't prune young bitterbrush, unless it is to remove a dead or damaged branch. Pruning is best done in late winter to early spring. Remove up to 1/3rd of the overall shrub, keeping older branches to build up a sturdy framework. Be stingy with how much you cut off. Pruning too much at once can cause the bitterbrush to go into shock. Prune to promote health, provide air circulation, maintain a desirable shape, and remove dead or damaged branches.



Pin Oak

Species: *Quercus Palustris*

Count: 3

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Spring

A deciduous tree with a distinctive and refined pyramidal form. Best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Prune limbs that are approximately 1" diameter by using loping shears or pruning shears. Make sure they are sharp enough to cut all the way through and avoid tearing/peeling the bark during removal. If pruning larger limbs, use the 3-cut method. The reason to prune should be one of three: safety, health, or aesthetics and form.



Golden Currant

Species: *Ribes aureum*

Count: 3 Size when planted: 5'-10'

When to prune: Late spring to summer

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Spring, Winter

A deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Avoid pruning until after flowers have bloomed. Late Winter or early Spring pruning to provide air circulation, maintain a desirable shape, and to remove dead or damaged branches. When pruning, remove 1/3rd of the oldest branches by cutting at the base of the shrub. When trimming shoots, make the cuts just above strong buds.



Wax Currant

Species: *Ribes cereum*

Count: 8

When to prune: Late winter to early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Summer

Perennial deciduous rounded shrub form. Prune immediately after they have finished flowering. Pruning is best done in late winter or early spring. Prune regularly to promote health, provide air circulation, maintain a desirable shape, and to remove dead or damaged branches. Remove 1/3rd of the oldest branches by cutting at the base of the shrub.



Black-Eyed Susans

Species: *Rudbeckia fulgida* 'Goldsturm'

Count: 9 Size when planted: 24"

When to prune: Late fall

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late summer

An herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. If you wait until springtime to prune this back, the seed heads will feed the birds, while the dead growth will provide insulation over winter. Deadhead finished flowers throughout the blooming season, June- August. To deadhead, cut the stem back to the base of the plant. Prune the stems down to just above the top healthy leaves. Cut off any dead or browned leaves. Make the cuts at a 45-degree angle, this will help keep water from clinging to the tops of the pruned stems. To prune in the spring, shear off the entire plant to just above the soil level.



Purple Sage (Desert Sage)

Species: *Salvia dorrii*

Count: 12 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Spring

An upright spreading herbaceous evergreen perennial shrub. Prune lightly after flowering. Pruning is not necessary to increase the number of flowering branches. Pruning the lateral branches, may encourage a more upright form. Pruning should be done in early spring, only to keep desired shape.



Caradonna Sage

Species: *Salvia x sylvestris* 'Caradonna' + other var.

Count: 10 Size when planted: 15"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Late spring to early summer

An herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Deadheading throughout the season to keep those blooms coming in. Wait until all signs of frost are done in the spring and new growth appears to do a big cleanup. Remove old growth down to the base.



Silver Buffaloberry

Species: *Shepherdia argentea*

Count: 8 Size when planted: 5 gal.

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Spring

An attractive multi-stemmed upright silver deciduous shrub with a round habit of growth. Best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Late winter or early spring, prune dead, diseased, or rubbing branches. Can be pruned for shape to form a small tree when young. Remove new shoots close to the ground.



Desert Globemallow

Species: *Sphaeralcea ambigua*

Count: 18 Size when planted: 24"-36"

When to prune: Late spring to summer

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Spring, winter

Multi-stemmed perennial herbaceous evergreen shrub with an upright rounded form of growth. Best to prune after blooming will help to keep it from getting too woody. Wear gloves and long sleeves when pruning. The tiny hairs on the leaves can be irritating and could become an eye irritant. Prune once a year to approximately 6 to 12 inches above the ground after it has finished blooming in late spring/early summer. This will help to prevent them from self-seeding and help to prevent unproductive woody growth.



Western Spirea

Species: *Spirea douglasii* 'Western'

Count: 4 Size when planted: 60"-72"

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Evergreen, winter deciduous

Flowering season: Summer

A dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a slightly rounded form. Best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Deadhead withered flowers after flowering. Do not prune vigorously after mid-summer. Prune as needed immediately after flowering, cut back flowered growth to strong young shoots lower down. Cut back one in three stems to ground level each year. Prune lightly.



Lamb's Ears

Species: *Stachys byzantina* 'Helen Von Stein'

Count: 33 Size when planted: 18"

When to prune: Summer

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Early summer

A dense herbaceous showy evergreen perennial with a mounded form. Should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Remove damaged leaves for a neat planting. Do not prune for winter. When they finish flowering in spring/summer, deadhead or cut them back to the ground. Remove dead leaves and trim any raggedy part when they emerge from winter. In the spring, gently rake through the lamb's ear to remove winter debris. Mulching underneath the plant helps keep the foliage dry.



Western Aster

Species: *Symphyotrichum ascendens*

Count: 18 Size when planted: 24"-30"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Summer

An herbaceous perennial. Prune in early spring by thinning out any dead crowns and removing old wood. Remove spent flowering stems down to the base after blooming to prevent self-seeding and encourage rebloom. When the growing season ends, cut all stems to about two inches above the ground. Prune on dry mornings. Cut back to half its height in midsummer to create a bushier plant and more blooms in fall. Thin the plant by removing approximately a third of the stems using pruning shears.



Snowberry Common

Species: *Symphoricarpos albus*

Count: 22 Size when planted: 5 gal.

When to prune: Late winter to early spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter deciduous

Flowering season: Spring, Summer

A dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a more or less rounded form. This shrub requires occasional maintenance and can be pruned at any time. *Do not eat fruits!*



Creeping Thyme 'Pink Chintz'

Species: *Thymus praecox* 'Pink Chintz'

Count: 42 Size when planted: 18"

When to prune: Early spring

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Summer

A dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Cut back hard after flowering to retain compactness. In early spring, prune back old foliage to about 3".



Sonic Bloom Weigela

Species: *Weigela florida* 'Bokrasopea'

Count: 26 Size when planted: 5 gal.

When to prune: Late spring

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter

Flowering season: Spring- first frost

A dense multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with a mounded form. This shrub requires little pruning and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. Deadheading is not necessary for rebloom.



Bright Edge Yucca

Species: *Yucca filamentosa* 'Bright Edge'

Count: 6 Size when planted: 4'

When to prune: Late winter

Maintenance: Occasional

Dormancy: Evergreen

Flowering season: Summer

A multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a slightly rounded form. Best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Generally, does not require pruning. Remove faded flower stems to the base after blooming, in late summer. In fall, remove yellowing leaves after they have dried. Use sharp garden shears to prune away leaves by cutting down close to the base of the plant.



Hummingbird Trumpet

Species: *Zauschneria canum* 'California' or *Epilobium canum* 'California Fuchsia'

Count: 26 Size when planted: 16"-20"

When to prune: Winter*

Maintenance: Low

Dormancy: Winter semi-deciduous

Flowering season: Summer, fall

Showy semi-evergreen herbaceous perennial shrub with a spreading growth of habit. Should be cut or mow to base in fall or early winter to stimulate new growth. These should be cut back hard every winter, but **not until they have been established after two years (2024)*. At that time, the plants should be cut to the ground, leaving stubs about one inch long. When pruning be careful not to break off tender young shoot and buds that may be sprouting from the base of each plant. Plants tend to get straggly after flowering by late fall or early winter. Best to cut them back to the ground as soon as the flowers are spent, and they'll come back lush and healthy in the spring. Otherwise, they'll look straggly and unhealthy the next year, and are more likely to die.



Quick Glance of When to Prune

Scientific Name A-Z	Common Name	When to Prune
Acer freemanii 'Celebration'	Celebration Maple	summer
Achillea millefolium	Common Yarrow	late fall/ early winter
Achnatherum hymenoides	Indian Ricegrass	fall then early spring
Agastache 'Blue Boa'	Blue Boa Giant Hyssop	early spring
Amelanchier x grandiflora 'Autumn Brilliance'	Serviceberry	late winter or early spring
Artemisia 'Powis Castle'	Powis Castle Artemisia	early spring
Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Brocade'	Silver Brocade Artemisia	early spring and midsummer
Artemisia tridentata	Sagebrush	late winter
Aster novae-angliae 'purple dome'	Purple Dome Aster	early spring
Caryopteris x clandonensis 'Dark Knight'	Dark Knight Bluebeard	late winter
Centranthus ruber	Red Valerian	summer to fall
Coreopsis grandiflora 'Sunkiss'	Tickseed	early spring
Cornus sericea 'Bailey'	Red-Twig Dogwood	late spring
Echinacea purpurea 'PowWow Wild Berry'	Coneflower 'PowWow Wild Berry'	late fall
Ericameria nauseosa	Rubber Rabbitbrush	spring
Eriogonum umbellatum	Sulphur Flower Buckwheat	spring
Fallugia paradoxa	Apache Plume	late winter to early spring
Gaillardia x grandiflora 'Arizona Sun'	Blanket Flower 'Arizona Sun'	early spring
Hesperaloe parviflora	Red/Texas Yucca	spring
Kniphofia hirsuta 'Fire Dance'	Red-Hot Poker	spring
Lavandula angustifolia 'Munstead'	Lavender 'Munstead'	spring
Leymus cinereus	Great Basin Wildrye	late fall
Lonicera involucrata	Twinberry (Honeysuckle)	late winter to early spring
Monarda didyma 'Grand Parade'	Beebalm 'Grand Parade'	late fall
Monarda 'Rockin Raspberry'	Beebalm 'Rockin Raspberry'	late fall
Nepeta x faassenii 'Balpurrlu'	Whispurr Blue Catmint	early spring
Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'	Walkers Low Catmint	early spring
Oenothera berlandieri 'Siskiyou'	Evening Primrose 'Siskiyou Mexican'	early spring
Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'	Heavy Metal Blue Switch Grass	early spring
Penstemon eatonii	Firecracker Penstemon	early spring
Penstemon Palmeri	Palmer's Penstemon	early spring
Penstemon speciosus	Royal Penstemon	spring
Perovskia atriplicifolia	Russian Sage	late winter
Phlox subulata 'Emerald Blue'	Creeping Phlox 'Emerald Blue'	late spring to early summer
Phlox subulata 'Scarlet Flame'	Creeping Phlox 'Scarlet Flame'	late spring to early summer
Prunus andersonii	Desert Peach	mid to late spring
Prunus laurocerasus 'Schipkaensis'	Schipka Cherry Laurel	early summer
Prunus Virginiana 'Canada Red'	Canada Red Choke Cherry	late winter
Purshia tridentata	Bitterbrush	late winter to early spring
Quercus Palustris	Pin Oak	late winter
Ribes aureum	Golden Currant	late spring to summer
Ribes cereum	Wax Currant	late winter to early spring
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'	Black-Eyed Susans	late fall
Salvia dorrii	Purple Sage (Desert Sage)	early spring
Salvia x sylvestris 'Caradonna' + other var.	Caradonna Sage	early spring
Shepherdia argentea	Silver Buffaloberry	late winter
Sphaeralcea ambigua	Desert Globemallow	late spring to summer
Spirea douglasii 'Western'	Western Spirea	late winter
Stachys byzantina 'Helen Von Stein'	Lamb's Ears	summer
Symphoricarpos albus	Snowberry Common	late winter to early spring
Symphotrichum ascendens	Western Aster	early spring
Thymus praecox 'Pink Chintz'	Creeping Thyme 'Pink Chintz'	early spring
Weigela florida 'Bokrasopea'	Sonic Bloom Weigela	late spring
Yucca filamentosa 'Bright Edge'	Bright Edge Yucca	late winter
Zauschneria canum 'California'	Hummingbird Trumpet	winter

References

Pictures and information have been compiled from the following websites:

- <https://www.moananursery.com/>
- <https://calscape.org/>
- <https://www.gardenia.net/>
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- <https://www.wildflower.org/>
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