

BEST TIMES FOR TREE PRUNING

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BELOW IS A CHART DETAILING THE OPTIMAL PRUNING TIMES FOR VARIOUS NATIVE TREES IN DELAWARE AND PENNSYLVANIA:

Tree Species	Optimal Pruning Time	Notes
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to minimize sap loss and reduce stress. Avoid pruning in early spring when sap flow is high.
Eastern Hemlock (Tsuga canadensis)	Late Winter to Early Spring	Prune before new growth begins; avoid pruning in late summer to reduce the risk of pest infestation.
White Oak (Quercus alba)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to prevent sap bleeding and reduce the risk of disease.
Tulip Poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to promote healthy growth and reduce stress.
Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)	Immediately After Blooming	Prune after flowering to avoid removing flower buds for the next season.
American Beech (Fagus grandifolia)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to minimize sap loss and reduce stress.
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to minimize sap loss; avoid early spring pruning due to high sap flow.
Black Cherry (Prunus serotina)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to promote healthy growth and reduce stress.
Eastern Redbud (Cercis canadensis)	Immediately After Blooming	Prune after flowering to avoid removing next year's flower buds.
Northern Red Oak (Quercus rubra)	Late Fall to Early Spring	Prune during dormancy to prevent sap bleeding and reduce disease risk.

GENERAL PRUNING GUIDELINES

Deciduous Trees: For most deciduous trees, the ideal pruning period is during their dormant phase, typically from late fall to early spring, before new growth emerges. This timing allows for easier assessment of the tree's structure and reduces the risk of disease transmission.

Flowering Trees: Trees that bloom in spring, such as dogwoods and redbuds, should be pruned immediately after their flowering period. This practice ensures that the current year's blooms are preserved and allows the tree ample time to develop buds for the following season.

Evergreen Trees: Evergreens generally require minimal pruning. If necessary, the best time is late winter to early spring, just before new growth starts. Avoid heavy pruning, as it can stress the tree.

ADDITIONAL TIPS



Prune at the Right Time: Pruning too early in the fall can stimulate new growth that may not harden before winter, leading to potential damage.



Use Proper Tools: Professional tree care companies will ensure tools are sharp and clean to make precise cuts and reduce the risk of disease transmission.



Consult Professionals: Especially for large or mature trees, hire certified arborists to perform pruning, ensuring safety and tree health.



Stein Tree Service tree professionals consider the specific needs of each tree species, so homeowners in Delaware and Pennsylvania can have healthy, attractive trees that enhance their landscapes.