

## Frequently Asked Questions - Shrubs

### Q. Which shrubs are best for a shaded area?

A. Varieties of Mahonia, Aucuba, Sarcococca, Vinca, Pachysandra, Pieris, Daphne and Buxus

### Q. Which shrubs are best for a dry, shaded area?

A. Fatsia Japonica, Hydrangea macrophylla, Pyracantha 'Soleil d'Or' and Skimmia japonica reevesiana

### Q. Which are the best evergreen shrubs to fill a corner?

A. Photinia 'Red Robin', Viburnum tinus, Prunus lusitanica, Griselinia or Pittosporum tenuifolium

### Q. What shrubs are best to use in containers for outside my front door?

A. Bay Trees, Buxus (shaped), Taxus baccata (shaped), Cupressus macrocarpa, Juniperus communis 'Compressa' or Euonymus 'Green Spire' would be ideal

### Q. What are the best scented shrubs?

A. Varieties of Daphne, Philadelphus, Hamamelis and Syringa. Also Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn', Sarcococca confusa and Osmanthus burkwoodii

### Q. Which shrubs flower in winter?

A. Mahonia, Camellia, Daphne, Sarcococca confusa and Viburnum

### Q. Which shrubs are best for groundcover?

A. Cotoneaster horizontalis, Vinca major, Pachysandra

### Q. When should I prune spring flowering shrubs?

A. Since these plants bloom on previous year's wood, they should be pruned after they bloom or else you will sacrifice the buds. Pruning should be done within six weeks after blooming, which is also a good time to feed them.

### Q. When should I prune summer flowering shrubs and trees?

A. These plants should be pruned in the early spring before new growth begins to emerge. Bigleaf, Oakleaf and climbing Hydrangeas are an exception to this rule. They are late spring or summer flowering, but they bloom from the previous year's growth, so they should only be pruned if necessary and after flowering.

**Q. When should I prune evergreens?**

A. Most evergreen shrubs and trees should be pruned in the early spring (for a natural appearance) or late spring after the new growth has flushed out (for a more formal appearance). This includes both needled evergreens such as Yews, Spruce and Juniper and broad-leaved evergreens such as Boxwood, Holly and Laurel.

One notable exception to this rule is the spring flowering group of evergreens such as Azalea and Rhododendron, which should not be pruned until after they have bloomed or else you will sacrifice the flowers. These plants should be pruned within six weeks after they bloom, as this is when they begin to set buds for the following year.

**Q. Should shrubs and trees be watered after they are planted?**

A. Yes. All plants should be watered thoroughly after they are planted and then as needed to keep them healthy. How often you water may vary depending on factors such as size of the plant, where it is growing and how much natural rainfall there is.

You will need to monitor your plants water requirements by checking the moisture level of smaller plants every 2-3 days and larger plants and trees every 3-4 days to determine how dry or wet it is, to know when to water again.

**Q. My Hydrangea is losing its blue colouring, what can I do?**

A. Use a 'Hydrangea colourant' or apply ericaceous feed to the plant which will help it keep the blue colour. If one isn't used it will eventually revert back to pink.

**Q. Which compost is best to use for shrubs in containers?**

A. John Innes No. 3