

Pruning Guide

Plant	Best Time to Prune (Zone 10a)	Notes	Bloom Time (Typical)
Amaryllis	After bloom	Remove spent stalks after flowering	Late winter–spring (Feb–Apr)
American Beautyberry	Late winter (Feb)	Cut older canes to ground	Late spring–early summer (May–Jun); berries in fall
Angel Wing Begonia	Pinch as needed	Pinch to encourage branching	Year-round indoors; peaks spring–summer outdoors
Water Hyssop	Trim as needed	Aquatic, spreads quickly	Summer–fall (May–Oct)
Lemon Basil	Pinch tips regularly	Harvest leaves before bloom	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Sweet Basil	Pinch tips regularly	Harvest leaves before bloom	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Thai Basil	Pinch tips regularly	Harvest leaves before bloom	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Holy Basil	Pinch tips regularly	Harvest leaves before bloom	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Beach Sunflower	Light shear any time	Encourage dense cover	Year-round flowering, heaviest summer
Beach Verbena	Light shear after bloom	Encourage dense cover	Spring–fall (Mar–Oct)
Blackberry Lily	After bloom	Cut back stalks after flowering	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Bloodberry	Late winter (Feb)	Trim to shape	Summer–fall (Jul–Oct)
Blue Curl	Pinch back early	Encourage branching	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Brazilian Bachelor Buttons	Late winter prune	Encourage bushy habit	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Brazilian Red Cloak	Late winter prune	Cut back after bloom	Fall–winter (Oct–Feb)
Bulbine	After flowering	Remove spent flower stalks	Year-round, peaks spring–fall
Key West Buttercup	Light shear after bloom	Encourage rebloom	Year-round, peaks summer
Button Sage	Late winter prune	Cut back 1/3 to renew	Year-round, peaks spring–fall
Cat Whiskers	After bloom	Remove spent stalks	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Chaya	Pinch or prune for height	Wear gloves, sap irritating	Year-round, peaks rainy season

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Cocoa Plum	Late winter (Feb)	Lightly shape or rejuvenate	Spring–summer (Mar–Aug), berries in fall
Coontie	Rarely prune	Only remove dead leaves	Year-round, cones in fall
Coral Honeysuckle	After main bloom	Cut back to encourage rebloom	Spring–summer (Mar–Jun), sporadic later
Coreopsis lanceolata	After bloom	Deadhead to prolong	Spring (Mar–May)
Corky Stem Passion Vine	After bloom if needed	Minimal; host plant	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Cranberry Hibiscus	Pinch early; cut back in late summer	Encourage bushiness	Fall (Sep–Nov)
Creeping Sage	After bloom	Light trim	Spring–summer (Mar–Jul)
American Crinum	After bloom	Remove spent flower stalks	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Crown of Thorns	Anytime light prune; heavier after bloom	Avoid sap	Year-round, peaks spring–summer
Cuban Buttercup	Shear after bloom	Encourages rebloom	Year-round, peaks summer
Dotted Horsemint	After bloom	Cut back stalks	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Duranta	Late winter prune	Cut back to shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Elderberry	Late winter (Feb)	Cut old canes to ground	Spring–summer (Mar–Jun)
Elephant's Foot	Trim dead leaves as needed	Rarely cut back	Summer bloom (Jul–Aug)
False Bromeliad (Neoregelia)	Remove spent inflorescences	Offshoots form new plants	Summer (Jun–Aug)
False Rosemary	After bloom	Light shear	Spring–summer (Apr–Jul)
Fennel	After bloom	Cut back to base after seed	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Firecracker Bush	Late winter (Feb)	Cut back by 1/3 to renew	Year-round, peaks summer
Firebush 'Calusa'	Late winter (Feb)	Cut back by 1/3 to renew	Year-round, peaks summer–fall
Firespike	Late winter prune	Cut to ground to rejuvenate	Fall–winter bloom (Oct–Feb)
Fleabane	After bloom	Cut back to encourage	Summer–fall

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		new growth	(Jun–Oct)
Frog Fruit	After bloom	Light shear to keep tidy	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Frostweed	Late winter	Remove old stems	Summer (Jul–Aug)
Garlic Chive	After flowering	Cut flower stalks to promote leaves	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Galangal Ginger	After harvest	Remove old leaves	Summer (Jun–Sep)
Shampoo Ginger	After flowering	Cut back old stalks	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Chapman's Goldenrod	After bloom	Cut back to shape	Fall (Oct–Nov)
Leavenworthii Goldenrod	After bloom	Cut to renew	Fall (Oct–Nov)
Pinebarren Goldenrod	After bloom	Remove spent stems	Fall (Oct–Nov)
Seaside Goldenrod	After bloom	Light cutback	Fall (Oct–Nov)
Fakahatchee Grass	After bloom	Trim old stalks	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Purple Lovegrass	After bloom	Remove old stems	Summer (Jun–Sep)
Grey Leaf	Light prune	Remove dead branches	Summer (Jun–Sep)
Ground Orchid	After flowering	Trim spent flowers	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Katuk	Light prune	Maintain shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Like Tree	After flowering	Cut back for size control	Spring–summer (Mar–Jul)
Longevity Spinach	Light pinch	Encourage bushy growth	Year-round, peaks summer
Lyreleaf Sage	After bloom	Cut back to maintain form	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Red Maple	Late winter	Prune for structure	Spring (Mar–Apr)
Mexican Sage	After bloom	Cut back lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Mexican Tarragon	After bloom	Light shear to encourage fullness	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Balloon Milkweed	After flowering	Remove spent stalks	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Giant Milkweed	After flowering	Cut back to control size	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Sunshine Mimosa	After bloom	Trim lightly	Summer (Jun–Aug)

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Red Mulberry	Late winter	Prune for shape	Spring (Mar–Apr)
Narrow Leaf Sunflower	After bloom	Cut back old stems	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Necklace Pod	After flowering	Remove spent flowers	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Nuns Orchid	After flowering	Trim old spikes	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Obedient Plant	After bloom	Shear lightly to shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Oldfield Aster	After bloom	Cut back old stems	Fall (Oct–Nov)
Cuban Oregano	Pinch tips	Encourage bushy growth	Year-round, peaks summer
Partridge Pea	After bloom	Cut back to maintain size	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Incense Passionvine	After bloom	Minimal pruning	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Lady Margaret Passionvine	After bloom	Trim to maintain shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Penta	After bloom	Light cutback	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Bird Pepper	Light prune	Maintain bushiness	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Pigeon Pea	Late winter	Cut back to control size	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Plumbago	After bloom	Light prune to shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Plumbago White (Prostrate)	After bloom	Trim to encourage spread	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Coral Porterweed	After bloom	Cut back lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Purple Porterweed	After bloom	Light cutback to shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Prostrate Porterweed	After bloom	Trim to encourage spread	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Sea Purslane	After bloom	Remove dead stems	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Railroad Vine	After bloom	Light pruning	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Rosemary	After bloom	Shear lightly	Spring–summer (Mar–Jul)
Rosinweed	After bloom	Cut old stalks	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Rouge Plant	After bloom	Trim to maintain shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Wood Sage	After bloom	Cut back lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Salt and Pepper Plant	After bloom	Remove spent flowers	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)

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Blue-Black Salvia	After bloom	Shear to shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Red Salvia	After bloom	Shear to shape	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Scorpion Tail	After bloom	Trim lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Oxeye Seaside	After bloom	Cut back old stems	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Privet Senna	Late winter	Cut back to shape	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Shrimp Plant	After bloom	Remove old flower stalks	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Simpson Stopper	Late winter	Trim to maintain form	Spring (Mar–May)
Skullcap	After bloom	Light cutback	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Sneezeweed	After bloom	Cut old stems	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Society Garlic (Spanish Shawl)	After bloom	Remove old flowers	Summer (Jun–Sep)
Spider Lily	After bloom	Cut back spent stalks	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Spiderwort	After bloom	Trim old stems	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Swamp Milkweed	After bloom	Cut back to encourage new growth	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Dutchman Pipevine	After bloom	Light prune	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Turmeric	After harvest	Remove old leaves	Summer (Jun–Sep)
Turks Cap	After bloom	Cut back lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Swamp Twinflower	After bloom	Trim old growth	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Oblongleaf Twinflower	After bloom	Remove spent flowers	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Viburnum	Late winter	Cut back for shape	Spring (Mar–Apr)
Violet	After bloom	Light trim	Spring–summer (Mar–Jul)
Voodoo Plant	After bloom	Shear lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
White Begonia	Pinch tips	Encourage bushy growth	Summer–fall

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White Duranta	After bloom	Trim to maintain shape	(Jun–Oct) Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
White Twinevine	After bloom	Cut back to control size	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
Wild Coffee (Bahama)	Late winter	Light prune to shape	Spring (Mar–May)
Wild Coffee (Little Psycho)	Late winter	Light prune	Spring (Mar–May)
Wild Coffee (Shiny Leaf)	Late winter	Cut back old branches	Spring (Mar–May)
Wild Coffee (Soft Leaf)	Late winter	Trim lightly	Spring (Mar–May)
Wild Petunia	After bloom	Remove old stems	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)
White Yarrow	After bloom	Cut back old flower stalks	Summer (Jun–Aug)
Yesterday Today and Tomorrow	After bloom	Shear lightly	Summer–fall (Jun–Oct)