

Shearing

Aside from considerations of taste, there are other good reasons to avoid the use and misuse of shearing as a pruning technique:

1. It locks you into a high-maintenance routine.
2. It is difficult in the long run to control the size of your shrub.
3. It is a drain on the health of the plant.
4. It subverts the purpose of many shrubs, sometimes by eliminating their flowers or, more unfortunately, sometimes destroying their branch patterns and texture.

GOOD TO SHEAR

Box Honeysuckle
Boxwood
Japanese Holly
Privet
Pyracantha spp.
Yew

OPTIONAL TO SHEAR

Abelia spp. (split into *Linaea* spp.,
Lonicera spp. and *Zabelia* spp.)
Arborvitae
Bamboo
Cotoneaster
English Laurel
Escallonia spp.
Euonymous spp. (evergreen)
Junipers (some)
Hemlocks
Holly
Oregon Grape
Osmanthus spp.
Photinia spp.
Quince

Do NOT SHEAR

Andromeda (*Pieris* spp.)
Aucuba spp.
Barberries (most)
Beautybush (formerly *Kolkwitzia amabilis*, now *Linnaea amabilis*)
Camellia spp.
Deutzia spp.
Euonymous spp. (deciduous)
Forsythia spp.
Kalmia spp.
Lilacs
Rhododendrons
Rose of Sharon
Roses
Spirea spp.
Viburnums
Weigela spp.

CRIMINAL TO SHEAR

Azalea (deciduous)
Contorted or species of weeping plants
Dogwood
Doublefile viburnum
Harry Lauder's walking stick
Laceleaf maple
Magnolia
Witch Hazel