

# 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 of species of weeping plants  
Dogwood  
Doublefile viburnum  
Harry Lauder's walking stick  
Laceleaf maple  
Magnolia  
Witch Hazel