

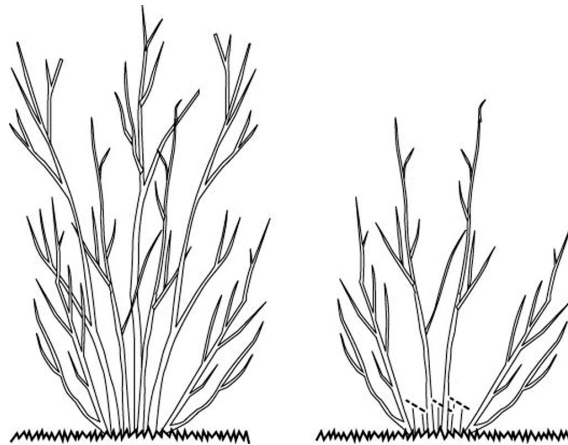


Pruning Broadleaf Shrubs

Prune shrubs to keep their natural shape unless they are used as formal hedges. Shearing (heading cuts) should not be widely used; thinning of older, taller growth should be the primary type of pruning. Cut off the largest, oldest branches at or very near the ground and leave the younger, shorter stem (fig. 13.19). These may be headed back if they are very weak or very sparse. New shoots that develop can be thinned and headed as needed to reshape the plant. For extremely large, overgrown plants that need to be rejuvenated, it is best to cut out all old growth near the ground over a 2- to 3-year period so as not to destroy the plant's natural shape or flowering habit. Judicious thinning and selective heading of new shoots and young stems can then be used to shape and control growth until rejuvenation is required again. Rejuvenated plants may not bloom for one or more years depending on their growth rate and flowering habit.

Fig. 13.19

Prune broadleaf shrubs to keep their natural shape by using mostly thinning cuts. Avoid making heading cuts or shearing the whole plant.



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