

Ornamental Trees



Illustration 1, In the first year, while the plant is dormant, remove weak or unruly shoots, crossing branches, and suckers.



Illustration 2, In the spring of the second or third year, remove poorly spaced branches.

Thereafter, leave the plant alone, pruning only for dead, diseased, or damaged wood or to correct a poor shape.



Illustration 3, Train flowering trees as trees rather than large shrubs; with a central leader.

Cut off all suckers that sprout from their roots.

Like shade trees, ornamental deciduous trees grow on a framework of older branches and need only infrequent maintenance pruning. Follow the same rules for pruning at planting time.

The best time to prune most flowering trees is just after the blossoms fade unless you want to leave attractive berries, on which case prune in late winter.

Some popular trees in this group include: *Acer palmatum* (Japanese maple), *Cercis* (redbud), *Cornus florida* (flowering dogwood), *Cornus kousa* (Kousa dogwood), *Corylopsis*, *Cotinus obovatus* (American smoke tree), *Elaeagnus* (Russian olive), *Euonymus atropurpurea* (burning bush), *Hydrangea paniculata*, *Laburnum anagyroides* (golden-chain), *Magnolia*, *Malus* (flowering crabapple), *Prunus* (flowering almond, cherry, plum), *Syringa reticulata* (Japanese tree lilac), and *Viburnum*.

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