



Woodland Services

Tree Surgery & Forestry Contractors

Timely shrub and tree care tips

January

Ideal time to prune shrubs and trees that flower from late May like buddlia and fuchsia.

February

Time to plant bare rooted shrubs and trees but avoid frosty days. Cover the bare roots with soil or compost to stop them drying out before planting.

March

Remember it is an offence to disturb nesting birds between 1st of March and 31st of July. So from now on take great care to check for nests before cutting back shrubs or trees.

April

As the weather warms up and growth starts trees and shrubs will benefit from a layer of mulch of rotted wood chip or compost. This will retain moisture and prevent weed growth. Magnolias and camellias will be particularly grateful.

May

If you have any Ash trees have a look at the Forestry Commission website: forestry.gov.uk/chalara, for the latest information about Ash dieback disease, Chalara Fraxinea.

June

Now is the time to prune deciduous shrubs and trees that have recently finished flowering, such as forsythia, philadelphus. It is especially important to avoid pruning any of the plum family until after flowering to prevent silver leaf disease.



July

Maple, horse chestnut, birch, walnut and cherry trees all bleed extensively, even towards the end of their dormant season, so prune these in mid-summer after new growth has matured.

Look out for clusters of honey coloured fungi at the base of trees and shrubs. These may be the fruiting bodies of Honey Fungus which can eventually kill susceptible species.

August

Newly planted shrubs and trees should be mulched and watered. Trickle irrigation is ideal other wise make sure they have a thorough soaking to prevent the soil drying out.

Trained fruit trees, such as espaliers, fans, cordons and pyramids can be pruned now to maintain their shape.

September

This is an ideal time to start trimming conifers. Remember leylandii only grow from the green shoots so do not trim back to the woody stems, as they will not green up again and will look unsightly.

October

Deciduous trees are entering dormancy when they loose their leaves this is a good time to start pruning most species.

A good time to plant bare rooted trees and shrubs. Trim your late blooming shrubs that have already flowered.

November

Fruit trees, such as apples and pears can now begin to be pruned. This is an ideal time to start dividing deciduous shrubs like lavender, to increase stocks.

December

Use this time to plan for the coming year. The Royal Horticultural Society - [RHS website](#) is full of information and ideas.

