

Native Plant Pruning Guide

Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers Native Plants | 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley CA 91352 | 818 768-1802 | theodorepayne.org

Plant name	Common name	Method	Pruning season	Notes
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	common yarrow	Deadhead or mow	Late summer/Fall	
<i>Arctostaphylos</i> spp.	manzanita	Thinning	Summer	Avoid pruning during rainy season
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall	
<i>Atriplex</i> spp.	salt bush	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall/Winter	
<i>Baccharis</i> spp.	coyote brush	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall/Winter	
<i>Calliandra californica</i>	red fairy duster	Reduction	As needed	Cut back to a lateral to avoid lion's tail
<i>Calycanthus occidentalis</i>	spice bush	Thinning, reduction	Winter	
<i>Calyptegia macrostegia</i>	island morning glory	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall/Winter	
<i>Carex</i> spp.	sedge	Mow	As needed	
<i>Ceanothus</i> spp.	California lilac	Pinch prune, reduction	Immediately after bloom	Pinch prune when young to encourage dense growth
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>	desert willow	Thinning, reduction	Winter	Train and direct growth when young
<i>Diplacus</i> spp.	monkeyflower	Pinch prune	Winter	Pinch early in growing season; do not pinch if flower buds are present
<i>Elymus 'Canyon Prince'</i>	canyon prince giant wild rye	Shearing	Fall	
<i>Encelia</i> spp.	bush sunflower	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall	
<i>Encelia</i> spp.	bush sunflower	Deadhead, coppice	Spring, fall	Coppice in fall to rejuvenate
<i>Epilobium (Zauschneria)</i> spp.	California fuchsia	Coppice	Winter	Wait for new growth to appear before pruning
<i>Eriogonum arborescens</i>	Santa Cruz Island buckwheat	Deadhead only	As needed	Will not recover its form if pruned hard
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall/Winter	Coppice in fall to rejuvenate
<i>Eriogonum giganteum</i>	St. Catherine's lace	Deadhead only	Fall/Winter	Will not recover its form if pruned hard
<i>Festuca</i> spp.	fescue	Mow (optional)	Winter	
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon	Thinning, reduction	Fall	
<i>Heuchera</i> spp.	coral bells	Coppice	Fall/Winter	Remove thickest stems; these can be propagated
<i>Lepachinia fragrans</i>	pitcher sage	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall/Winter	Cut portions can be propagated
<i>Lupinus</i> spp.	lupine	Deadhead	Summer	
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i> spp.				
<i>asplenifolius</i>	Santa Cruz Island ironwood	Reduction	Summer/Fall	Remove suckers as needed
<i>Malacothamnus</i> spp.	bush mallow	Deadhead	Summer/Fall	Remove runners
<i>Malva</i> spp.	tree mallow	Stake	As needed	
<i>Mimulus</i> —see <i>Diplacus</i>				
<i>Monardella</i> spp.	coyote mint	Deadhead, coppice	Fall/Winter	
<i>Muhlenbergia rigens</i>	deer grass	Shearing, raking	Fall/Winter	Shear every 3-4 years, if needed, to rejuvenate
<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>	palo verde	Thinning, reduction	Fall/Winter	
<i>Penstemon</i> spp.	beardtongue	Deadhead	Fall/Winter	
<i>Prunus</i> spp.	cherry	Reduction, thinning	Fall/Winter	
<i>Quercus</i> spp.	oak	Reduction, thinning	Evergreen in Summer, Deciduous in Winter	Pruning should always be avoided. Reduction and thinning cuts may be acceptable for young trees or older trees with branches interfering with structures
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry	Reduction	Summer	Can be sheared as a hedge or trained as a tree
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	sugarbush	Reduction	Summer	Can be sheared as a hedge or trained as a tree
<i>Ribes</i> spp.	currant/gooseberry	Thinning, heading	Summer/Fall	
<i>Ramneya coulteri</i>	Matilija poppy	Coppice	Late winter	
<i>Rosa californica</i>	wild rose	Coppice	Late summer/Fall	
<i>Salvia</i> spp.	sage	Deadhead, reduction	Fall/Winter	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> spp. <i>caerulea</i>	blue elderberry	Thinning	Fall	
<i>Verbena lilacina</i>	lilac verbena	Cut back by 1/2 or coppice	Fall	
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