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Pruning Ornamentals – summer is winding down and the heat is giving way to cooler days. 90 degrees is much cooler than 100+! Anyway, many of our summer bloomers are fading out and the time for pruning is getting closer. So, I thought this would be a good time to discuss exactly when to prune certain plants. Many woody ornamentals are pruned according to their date of flowering. For example spring flowering plants such as azalea, forsythia and dogwood are pruned after they bloom. Pruning these plants during the dormant season will remove flower buds. If plants are not grown for their flowers, the best time to prune is in the dormant winter season, before new spring growth begins. Late summer or fall pruning can result in re-growth and an increased chance for winter injury. Below I have included a table listing some common landscape plants and when to prune them:

Prune After Flowering		Prune Before Spring Growth Begins	
Azalea	Bigleaf Hydrangea	Beautyberry	Camellia
Bradford Pear	Bridalwreath Spirea	Goldenrain Tree	Chaste Tree
Clematis	Climbing Roses	Cranberrybush Viburnum	Crapemyrtle
Crabapple	Dogwood	Fragrant Tea Olive	Gloss Abelia
Flowering Cherry	Flowering Quince	Grandiflora Roses	Japanese Barberry
Forsythia	Lilac	Japanese Spirea	Mimosa
Mockorange	Oakleaf Hydrangea	Nandina	Rose-of-Sharon (Althea)
Pyracantha	Redbud	Sourwood	Anthony Waterer Spirea
Saucer Magnolia	Star Magnolia	Sweetshrub	
Doublefile Viburnum	Beautybush		
Shrub Honeysuckle	Weigelia		
Winter Daphne	Wisteria		

These are just a few tips to help you successfully prune your landscape plants. For more information you can call us at 478-836-3121 or visit the following website:
<http://pubs.caes.uga.edu/caespubs/pubcd/B949-W.html>