

Green Thumb Nursery **Caring for Flowering Shrubs**

Fertilize every 6 to 8 weeks with Fertilome Premium Bedding Food.

Flowering shrubs can add the necessary height, color, and texture that will make your garden really stand out. They soften the look of the landscaping and can bring out the beauty of the home colors or used to set a color theme throughout the yard.

Pruning is generally done in the early spring when the plant is coming out of dormancy and you see the first signs of new growth. We recommend that no more than 1/3 of the height be removed when it is trimmed. Cut each branch separately to different lengths with hand pruners. This will maintain a neat informal shrub with a natural shape. Pruning cuts should not be visible, but located inside the plant, covered by the remaining foliage. For larger shrubs like plumbago, it's a good idea to trim so the base is slightly wider than the top. That allows the sunlight to reach the lower branches and prevents them from thinning out. Summer flowering shrubs like hibiscus, oleander, and bougainvillea bloom on new growth so lightly prune during warmer months to encourage fresh blooms.



There are two classes of bugs and insects that may attack your shrubs. The first is sap sucking insects that can be killed with either Malathion Oil or Systemic Insecticide w/Acephate. The second class is chewing insects that eat the plant tissue. These pests are best controlled with a biological insecticide like Thuricide or Spinosad that the pest takes into their stomach. Fungal infections can cause the shrub leaves to turn yellow or have yellow spots. We sell different types of fungicides to control these infections either topically or through the plant root system. We can assist you in diagnosing any problems with your plant if you bring in a sample branch.



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