

Garden Notes-Shrubs

How Do I Acidify My Soil?

Sometimes it is necessary to change your soil's pH. Soil pH refers to how acidic or how alkaline your soil is. Most plants we grow in our area perform best in soils that are slightly acidic to near neutral and will find our native soils just fine for normal growth. However, sometimes it becomes necessary to raise or more often, to lower (acidify) the soil pH. This is especially true for acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons and blueberries. Below are some of the products we have available to help you change your soils pH.

Lower Soil pH (acidify)

Soil Sulfur
Ionate Soil Acidifier
Cooperas (Iron Sulfate)
Ammonium Sulfate
Aluminum Sulfate

Raise Soil pH

Hydrated Lime
Agricultural Limestone
Dolomitic Limestone

Pruning Shrubs

Spring Blooming

To insure blooms every year, pruning should be done in the spring, immediately after flowering has finished. This leaves the rest of the season for next spring's buds to form.

Ex. Forsythia, Mockorange, Lilac, Vanhoutte Spirea

Summer and Fall Blooming

It is best to prune these plants in the winter or early in the spring (February-April). Flower buds will develop with the current seasons growth.

Ex. Althea, Butterfly Bush, Hypericum, Dwarf Spirea

Shrubs for Wet Sites

Buttonbush
Chokeberry
Summersweet Clethra
Dogwood Shrubs
Elderberry
Winterberry Holly
Inkberry

Pussy Willow

Snowberry
Virginia Sweetspire
Arrowwood Viburnum
Nannyberry Viburnum
Witherrod Viburnum

Shrubs for Shaded Sites

Azalea
Boxwood
Summersweet Clethra
Coralberry
Current
Deutzia
Euonymous
Gooseberry
Evergreen Holly

Hydrangea

Kerria
Mahonia
Jethead
Rhododendron
Fragrant Sumac
Virginia Sweetspire
Viburnum