

How to...

## Prune a Buddleia



Buddleia are one of the most popular garden shrubs, and annual pruning encourages plenty of new growth and larger flowers for the coming year.

The best time to prune buddleia is either late winter or early spring just as the new buds begin to swell.

Using a sharp pair of secateurs cut back all last years growth to 2 or 3 healthy shoots from the base of the branch. It is important not to cut back into older wood as the new shoots may not re-grow.

This type of pruning may seem quite harsh but do not worry. Buddleia grow very fast and you will soon see the new shoots forming once the warmer weather comes.

Once you have finished pruning, it is usually a good time to feed and top dress the plant. This is done by mixing a controlled release fertiliser with a soil-based compost such John Innes No.2 and gently incorporating it around the base of the plant, being careful not to disturb the roots.

