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## **Cut Your Garden Plants Back Now for a Full and Fruitful Growing Season!**

Springtime is on the horizon, but Hoosiers have a few more weeks of wintery weather before we see warmer temps. Now is the perfect time to go ahead and give your shrubs and trees a good pruning!

Pruning your plants while they are still in their dormant period allows you to see the plant's form and structure clearly, allowing you to shape them more easily to your liking. Dormant pruning also reduces plant stress, and gives them a head start come spring thanks to the reservoir of stored energy in the roots (leftover from all the growth you pruned away!)

Evergreens and other Non-Flowering Shrubs: Prune your evergreens (both broadleaf and needled) with shape in mind. Cut off any wayward, thin, or scraggly looking branches until you are left with a general shape that looks neat and trimmed. Avoid cutting into old wood, as it may not resprout and grow new branches from the old cut.

Perennial Vining Plants: This category includes things like climbing hydrangea, Boston ivy, and Trumpet Vine. Late winter/early spring pruning encourages strong growth, as new branches will sprout from the cut stem point. Ivies can technically be trimmed at any time, but this is the best time if your plant needs some serious reshaping or cutting back (before any new leaves appear.)

Flowering Shrubs: While there is no universally understood proper time to prune back flowering shrubs, your biggest leg up will be knowing exactly what you've

got in your garden. For example, some spring-blooming shrubs (like lilac and forsythia) like to be pruned immediately after they are done flowering. Others like Peewee hydrangeas, Rose of Sharon, and Butterfly Bush prefer to be pruned once all danger of frost has passed (typically in April or May in Indiana.) Meanwhile, Big Leaf Hydrangeas prefer not to be pruned at all! If you prune too early, you may end up cutting off all your potential flower buds- so research what you've got in your garden to ensure your pruning schedule is perfect!

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## Featured Houseplant:



This week's featured houseplant is the classic [African Violet!](#) These colorful plants are well acclimatized to indoor living, but still prefer high humidity and temps between 65-80F°. They love bright, indirect sunlight- up to 10 hours a day! Most plant parents also prefer to bottom water their violets, both to lessen the chance of root rot and to avoid getting their fuzzy leaves wet (as they are sensitive to moisture!) Check out why these babies are so well-loved!

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## Plant the Seeds of Tomorrow with Alice's Garden!



Want to start your very own Vegetable, Herb, or Flower Garden but you're not sure where to start?

Come to one of Alice's Garden's seed starting classes! We offer both [Veg & Herb](#) and [Flower](#) seed starting workshops to set you on the right foot for a beautiful garden this season. We've got hundreds of options of flowers, fruits, vegetables, ground covers, and herbs- everything you need to create the garden of your dreams this spring!

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## Upcoming Classes:

- February 17th, 1pm: [Terrarium Building](#)- SOLD OUT
- February 24th, 1pm: [Vegetable and Herb Seed Starting Class](#)
- March 2nd, 1pm: [Flower Seed Starting Class](#)
- March 9th, 1pm: [Terrarium Building Class](#)
- March 16th, 1pm: [Houseplants for Beginners](#)
- March 23rd, 1pm: [Fairy Garden Making](#)

To purchase tickets to any of these events, head to our [Eventbrite Page](#), visit the store, or call us at [\(317\) 291-1441](tel:317-291-1441) to reserve your spot today!

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