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Homes**
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REAL ESTATE

WELCOME HOME

APRIL 2022

april 2022

MARKET REPORT



april 2022

Spring is in full swing here in Butte County! Our county sure does love to showcase its beauty this time of the year!

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the full picture:

Magnolia trees sure are beautiful when in full bloom!

What is your favorite tree blossom in this area? Share your thoughts and pictures of our wonderful county with us on our Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/bhgwelcomehome

May you find Butte County as active or restful as you like!

MARKET REPORT

MARCH 31ST, 2022

WELCOME HOME

Single Family Residences (Home, Manufactured on Land, Condo) Excluding Multi-Family									Monthly	
Active Listings/ Pending	Total Current Listings	Under \$100K	\$100K- \$200K	\$200K- \$300K	\$300K- \$400K	\$400K- \$500K	\$500K- \$600K	\$600K+	Expired This Month	Sold This Month
Chico Listings	201	1	5	12	23	61	33	66	2	98
Active	74	0	0	4	9	15	17	29		
Pending	127	1	5	8	14	46	16	37		
Not Sold	37%	0%	0%	33%	39%	25%	52%	44%		
Paradise Listings	60	0	0	1	13	21	10	15	1	25
Active	31	0	0	0	5	9	5	12		
Pending	29	0	0	1	8	12	5	3		
Not Sold	52%	0%	0%	0%	38%	43%	50%	80%		
Magalia Listings	42	0	5	14	14	2	4	3	0	21
Active	21	0	2	5	7	2	3	2		
Pending	21	0	3	9	7	0	1	1		
Not Sold	50%	0%	40%	36%	50%	100%	75%	67%		
Oroville Listings	179	2	15	44	48	28	19	23	1	50
Active	103	1	8	21	32	11	15	15		
Pending	76	1	7	23	16	17	4	8		
Not Sold	58%	50%	53%	48%	67%	39%	79%	65%		

how to properly prune 12 of the most common landscape evergreens

-Megan Hughes, bhgre.com

Keep your arborvitae, yews, and junipers from becoming an overgrown mess with these pruning do's and don'ts.

We've all seen those scraggly, lopsided, or overgrown evergreens looking like a hot mess in the landscape. Once an evergreen reaches that point, it can be a real challenge to correct the problem. But if you properly prune your evergreen trees and shrubs on the regular, they'll look their best for years to come. Not sure what parts to trim, how much to cut off, or when's the best time to prune? We can help. Here's exactly what you need to know to prune a dozen of the most common landscape evergreens so they'll add decades of color and texture to your landscape.

Tips for Pruning Evergreens

Whether the plant is a needled evergreen (such as a pine or spruce), or a broadleaf evergreen (such as a rhododendron or camellia), pruning involves knowing how the tree or shrub grows and where the new growth originates. But no matter the type of plant, three pruning strategies always apply. First, trim away any dead branches, cutting back to live wood or the base of the plant. Next, cut off broken or damaged branches. Finally, remove crossing or rubbing branches to improve overall structure of the plant.

Test Garden Tip: *Before you begin pruning, wipe down the blades of your pruning shears with isopropyl alcohol to avoid spreading diseases. Clean the blades again before moving on to trim a different plant.*

1. Arborvitae

Fast-growing and tolerant of heavy pruning, arborvitae is best pruned in early spring. If heavy pruning is necessary, reduce a branch by no more than one-quarter of its length, making cuts only into live wood. New growth will emerge from buds along the pruned branch. Arborvitae can take annual shearing, too.

2. Azalea

Evergreen in warmer areas of the country,

azaleas do best with light pruning (trimming off the branch tips). This encourages branching and more flower buds the next season. Prune plants right after they bloom in spring. Some young azaleas grow very rapidly and might require light pruning several times during the growing season to develop a dense, compact shape. Rejuvenate an overgrown azalea by cutting branches back by one-third their length before plants bloom in spring. Pruning before bloom directs valuable energy to boost new growth.

3. Boxwood

Thinning is key to maintaining a healthy boxwood plant. Dense growth in the interior of the shrub contributes to disease, and has the potential to create a leafy outer shell with many dead twigs in the center of the plant. Thin boxwood by cutting overgrown stems back to the interior of the plant. Thin about one-third of the stems each year to maintain a healthy plant. Lightly prune the remaining two-thirds of the stems to create the desired size.

4. Camellia

Slow-growing camellias rarely need pruning. If the shrub is thin or lanky, encourage new growth by trimming individual branches back by no more than one-quarter their length. Cut just above a node, which looks like a small bump on the stem where new growth will appear. The best time to prune is right after the plant flowers.

5. Cypress

For the most-natural form, reduce the size of the plant by cutting individual cypress branches back by no more than one-quarter their length. Cypress also tolerates light shearing if you want to modify the overall shape. Use hedge shears to create a formal shape, being careful to remove just a few inches of the branch tips. Prune cypress in spring or summer.

6. Holly

Exceptionally tolerant of heavy pruning, evergreen hollies are generally best cut back in late winter. The plant will actively re-grow in spring. Prune individual branches to achieve a more natural-looking shape. Shear the whole plant to give it a distinctive shape.

7. Juniper

Prune junipers in early spring before growth emerges. For the most-natural

shape, lightly trim side branches to reduce their size, cutting especially-vigorous branches back to the trunk of the plant. All junipers develop a dead zone in the center of the plant, thanks to their dense branching; do not cut into this area. Junipers can be sheared, but be sure to leave some new growth on the plant and avoid the dead zone.

8. Pines

Pines produce new growth at their branch tips in spring. The tightly packed new growth is called a candle. To create a compact plant and maintain its size, pinch or prune each candle back by one-third to one-half its length. Don't prune pines back into woody stems because new growth won't develop there.

9. Pyracantha

Also called firethorn, pyracantha is a thorny evergreen shrub that produces spectacular clusters of berries in the fall. Prune in late winter or very early spring before plants flower. Cut individual branches back as needed to maintain size. Pyracantha also tolerates shearing and can be sculpted into a formal hedge.

10. Rhododendron

Because they are slow-growing evergreen shrubs, rhododendrons rarely need pruning. Reduce the size of a plant by cutting branches back by one-quarter their length right after plants bloom in spring. Severely-pruned plants might not produce flowers for one or two years.

11. Spruce

Prune spruce trees in spring. Reduce the length of individual branches by cutting each one back to a lateral branch, or a visible bud. Bottom branches on spruce trees may naturally die with age, and can be removed. Note: Firs are pruned using the same methods as spruce.

12. Yew

Slow-growing and long-lived, yews tolerate pruning and shearing well. To maintain size and natural shape, prune individual branches in late winter and again in early summer, as needed. If you are creating a formal hedge, shear in early summer after new growth emerges. Shear again in mid-summer if needed. Note: Hemlocks are pruned using the same methods as yews.

gardening *for your senses*

Want the Best Garden in The Neighborhood? These Spring Flowering Tips Will Really Make You Bloom!

-bhgre.com/bhgrelife

April showers bring May flowers. Spring is the perfect season to start growing your garden into a colorful and lush oasis. Awaken your curb appeal and captivate the attention of your neighbors with the best garden in the area. Whether a new gardener or a self-proclaimed pro, here are some spring flowering tips to turn your landscape into a setting straight out of a fairytale.

Pick the Right Spring Flowers

The secret to growing a gorgeous spring garden is to pick the right kind of flowers. This step takes a bit of research but it's certainly worth it. Explore the vast array of flower seeds and bulbs to determine which ones will work best in your garden. Some flowers require more work than others, some will only blossom once, and others can surprisingly grow quite large.

These are all things you want to be aware of before committing to them to ensure the best garden in the neighborhood.

Rejuvenate Worn Flowerbeds

As you wait for your spring flowers to bloom, spend some time cleaning up the flowerbeds. Add a fresh coat of paint on wooden panels that took the brunt of winter, pull your garden décor out of the shed, and dust off your garden gnomes. There's nothing worse than the beauty of stunning spring flowers overtaken by chipped statues, weathered flowerbeds, and any debris left over from the winter.

Mulch Is a Must

To turn your spring garden into something you would see on the front of BHG magazine, lay down some mulch. It's a great and affordable way to instantly enhance the appearance of your garden that will also save you an abundance and time and effort. Just be sure to opt for organic mulch to bring all the benefits to your garden beds.

Prepare for Pests

As your spring garden starts to bloom, so

will the pests. From grubs to worms, squirrels, and rabbits, they seem to have a taste for the most stunning gardens. To ensure vibrant spring display doesn't get eaten away, prepare for pests before they arrive.

Remove any snails, slugs, and larvae you come across while planting your spring flowers. Spray the area with nontoxic pest control, install barriers if needed, and stay vigilant throughout the year.

Gather Fresh Rainwater with Water Butts
Spring gardens love fresh rainwater.

While your garden will likely get enough throughout the season, it's important to install some decorative water butts to collect rainwater for the drier days of the season. However, collecting rainwater isn't legal in every state. So, do your research prior to investing in stunning decorative water butts.

Start Composting

A thriving garden loves compost as much as it does rainwater. Designate a corner in your yard for composting. You can build a compost of your own with some wood or you can purchase one for a minimal fee. Either way, your garden will appreciate it. Composts are rich in nutrients your spring flowers need to bloom beautifully. They're also great for the environment and will reduce your carbon footprint significantly.

Create an Outdoor Oasis

A spring garden is beautiful as it is. However, if you want to turn your flower beds into an outdoor oasis, think outside of the flower pots. Install water fountains, station garden décor, and create a sitting area. Line your garden with solar powered lights so you can enjoy its beauty day and night.

All that's left to do is sit back and enjoy your spring garden. Don't forget to tend to your flowers, garden beds, and soil regularly to ensure optimal growth and beautiful blooming throughout the season.

diy *for your home*

4 Tasks That Veteran Homeowners Know You Gotta Do in March

-Gabriela Barkho, Houselogic by Realtors

March madness is here — not the basketball kind, but the home kind.

It's that time of year when homeowners who've been through a few winters know that to be at the top of their game, they have to be proactive. Here are four things they always do:

#1 Patch Up the Bare Spots in the Lawn

That'll keep both mud and water out of your house as snow and ice continue to melt and spring rains arrive.

#2 Inspect the Roof and Siding (Using Binoculars!)

Your home's outer coat — its roof and siding — takes a major beating during severe cold weather. March's slightly warmer temps make it an ideal time to look for early signs of roof problems — before they become money-gobblers.

Grab some binoculars (it's safer than climbing on the roof and a time-saver) and start looking for signs of damage:

- Loose or curling shingles
- Damaged gutters
- Peeling paint
- Cracks in the foundation

And start scheduling repairs before the damage gets more extensive.

#3 Put Up Window Screens

They last longer if you remove and store them for the winter (plus windows without screens will let in more warming rays of sunshine).

But regardless of whether you removed them last fall, now's the time to repair any holes, frames, or loose screens so you can open your windows for a fresh, clean breeze that's bug-free.

#4 Replace Batteries in Smoke Detectors

They should be changed once a year.

And if you're pressing the "test" button to see if it works, know this: That button tests the alarm sound — not whether the device actually detects smoke. (To see if it can detect smoke, light a match, then blow it out holding the stream of smoke near the device. If it goes off, it works.)

food/fun breakfast apple baked french toast

Ingredients:

- Nonslick Cooking Spray
- (2) 9 Oz Loaves Baguette-Style French Bread
- 1 Large Red-Skin Cooking Apple, Cored & Chopped
- 1 Tablespoon Lemon Juice
- 1 Cup Milk
- 1/2 Cup Caramel-Flavor Ice Cream Topping
- 1 Teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 Teaspoon Ground Cinnamon
- 1/4 Teaspoon Ground Ginger
- 1/8 Teaspoon Ground Nutmeg

This delicious breakfast casserole is perfect for anyone that enjoys a sweet bite to start the day. Prep this beauty up to 24 hours in advance so all you have to do in the morning is pop it in the oven.

Source: Better Homes and Gardens

Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a 2-qt. rectangular baking dish with cooking spray. Trim ends off baguettes and discard. Cut remaining baguettes crosswise into 1/2-inch slices. Arrange bread slices on edges in the prepared baking dish. Top bread with apple. Brush apple with lemon juice.

In a medium bowl whisk together eggs, milk, 2 Tbsp. of the ice cream topping, the vanilla, cinnamon, ginger, and nutmeg. Slowly pour egg mixture over bread, making sure to pour between each slice.

Bake, uncovered, 35 to 40 minutes or until top is golden brown, apple is tender, and mixture is heated through. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Drizzle with remaining ice cream topping.

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holiday/fun for everyone!

make tie-dye easter eggs with baking soda and vinegar

Emily VanSchmusBHG.com

This DIY Easter project is fun for the whole family. All you need for these DIY tie-dye eggs is baking soda, vinegar, and gel food coloring

We've all used the store-bought box kits to dye Easter eggs. You know the drill: Add color tablets to jars of vinegar, dip your hard-boiled eggs, and let them dry on a flimsy cardboard tray. This year, we're ditching the purchased dye kit and using ingredients from the kitchen to create stunning patterned eggs instead. All you need for these DIY tie-dye eggs is baking soda, vinegar, and gel food coloring. If those materials made you picture your elementary school volcano science experiment, you're not far off. The fizzing combination of baking soda and vinegar distributes the food coloring into a graphic tie-dye pattern.

The eggs are pretty on their own, but we also discovered a quick way to add an additional design element: Drizzle your eggs with rubber cement before dyeing them to reveal a pattern underneath the colors. This Easter egg coloring science experiment is so fun, we'll be using it to decorate Easter eggs well past the holiday. Before you get started, keep in mind that hard-boiled eggs should only be out of the refrigerator for two hours if you're planning to eat them. And while the baking soda and vinegar-dyed eggs are perfectly safe to eat, you should skip the ones drizzled with rubber cement.

How to Make Baking Soda-Dyed Eggs Supplies Needed

- Eggs
- Rubber cement
- Glass bowl
- Baking soda
- Water
- Spoon
- Muffin tin
- Paintbrushes
- Rubber gloves
- Measuring spoon
- Vinegar

Step-by-Step Directions

Follow these easy instructions to learn how to make colorful baking soda-dyed Easter eggs. You should be able to dye a dozen eggs in

under an hour.

- **Step 1: Prepare Eggs**
To prepare this Easter craft, hard boil eggs and set them aside to cool. When you're ready to dye them, open a can of rubber cement (\$4, Walmart) and use the brush to drizzle glue onto the eggs. Once you're done dyeing the eggs, you'll be able to peel the rubber cement off to reveal a white pattern underneath the tie-dye.

Editor's Tip: *Using rubber cement means these eggs will not be edible. If you plan to eat the eggs, skip this step and just use the baking soda and vinegar technique below.*

- **Step 2: Create a Dye Mix**
Use a spoon to mix 1/4 cup of baking soda with a tablespoon of water and add 3 drops of food coloring (\$4, Walmart). Stir until the mixture turns into a paste-like consistency. Repeat this process to make as many colors of paste as you like. We used three colors on each egg (red, yellow, and blue) to get the tie-dye look we were going for.
- **Step 3: Brush Mix on Eggs**
Once you've mixed your pastes, place one egg in each hole of a metal muffin tin. Use a foam crafts paintbrush to brush multiple colors of paste onto each egg. You'll want to wear protective rubber gloves (\$5 for two pairs, Walmart) for this part. The baking soda paste will add color to each dyed egg, but you can make them even more vibrant by dropping more gel food dye onto different areas of the eggs for concentrated bursts of color.
- **Step 4: Add Vinegar**
When each egg is coated in baking soda paste and food dye, it's time to make the magic happen. Use a dropper or measuring spoon to drop

small amounts of vinegar onto each egg; the reaction between the vinegar and baking soda will bubble and creating a tie-dye look. When all the baking soda has dissolved, dip each egg in water to clean it and then peel off the rubber cement to expose the white areas. Display your finished Easter egg decorations as part of a festive spring centerpiece or use them during your Easter egg hunt!



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