

Pruning Workshop – Gardeners’ Exchange Group

TREES 101, LLC

Education | Consulting | Tree Care
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PRUNING: A Three Step Approach

<p>1. Remove dead/dying/diseased, broken, crossing limbs (and most suckers).</p>
<p>2. Address co-dominance. There can only be one leader!</p>
<p>3. Encourage good branch spacing along/around trunk.</p>

Other Guiding Principles:

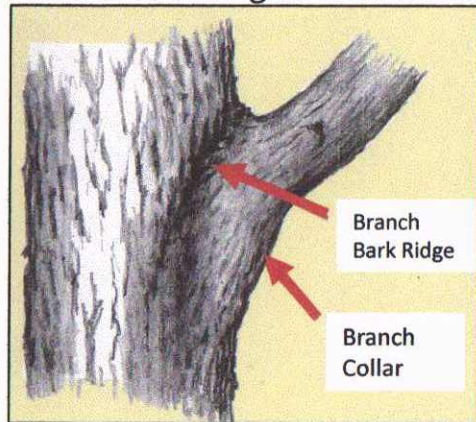
- *Do not remove more than 25% of the crown per year.
- *Do not remove lower limbs above 1/3 the overall height of tree.
- *Sanitize your tools between trees, or even when moving from section to section of a diseased tree.

When to Prune

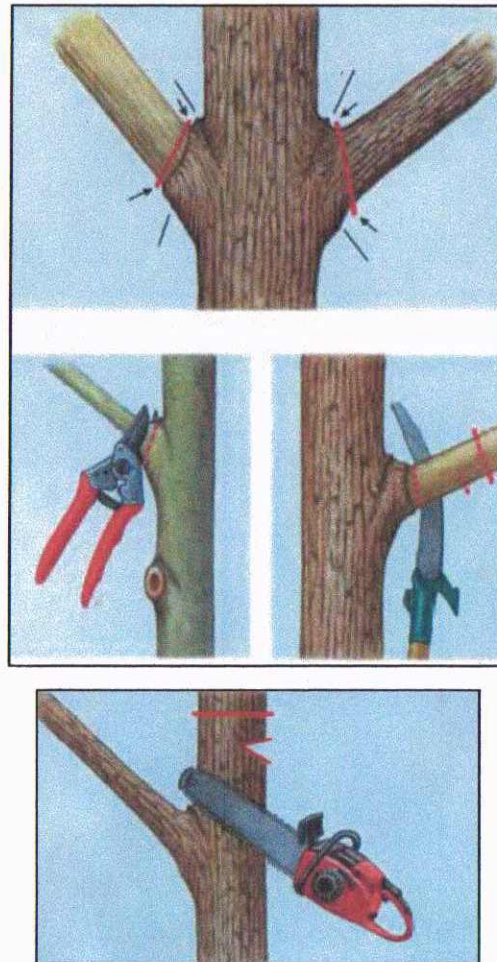
Objective/ Issue	Timing to Prune	Comment
Health/Structure/Ease	1-Winter, 2-Summer	Winter is ideal followed by summer
Showy flowers and fruit	After flowering	Pruning before flowering removes flower buds
Increase fruit size	Prior to flowering	Reduces the number of flowers and thus fruit will become larger, pruning for fruit production is not addressed in this book
Reduce Sprouting	Summer	Reduces current year sprouting
Fast wound closure	Early to mid-summer	Wound closure can be delayed by dormant pruning
Wound bleeding on some species such as maples and birches	Avoid late winter/ early spring	Wounds will "bleed" sap excessively; bleeding is not considered harmful
Bark ripping	Avoid the weeks just before and after bud break	Tender or slippery bark that may tear when making cuts. Some species such as elms have slippery bark well into the spring

From: *The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning*, Urban Forestry, LLC, 2012.

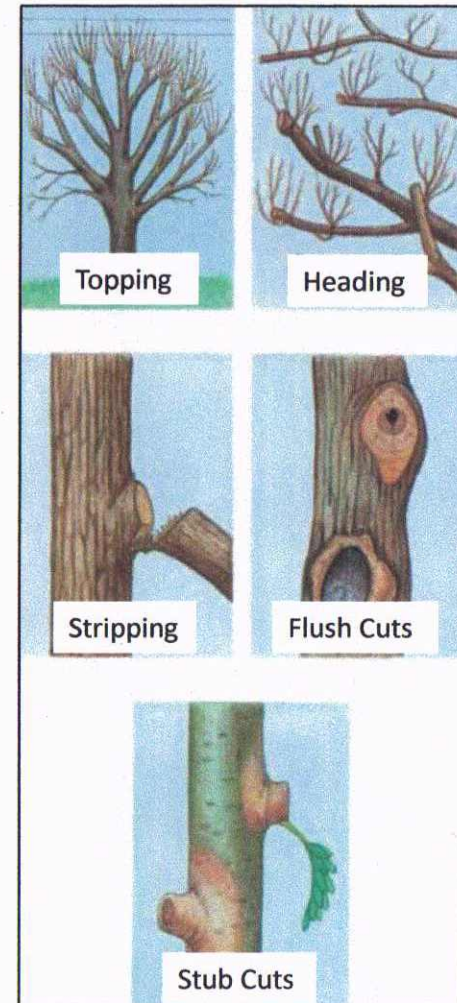
Branch Bark Ridge & Branch Collar



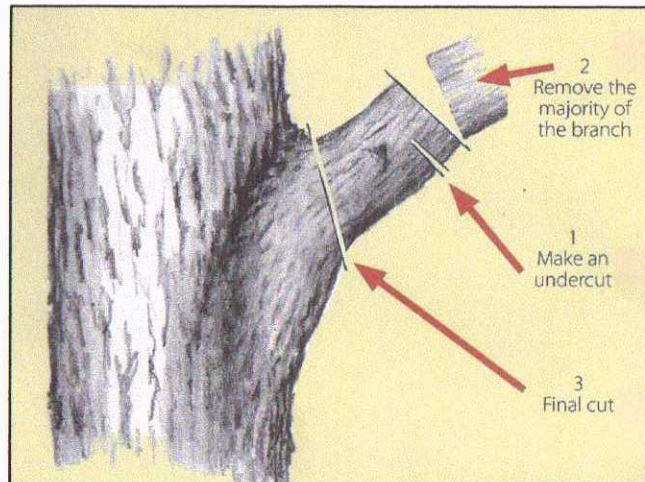
Proper Cuts



Cuts to Avoid



Three-Cut Method



(From: *The ABCs Field Guide to Young and Small Tree Pruning*, Urban Forestry, LLC, 2012)

(From: *How to Prune Trees*, US Forest Service, 2012)