

Intoduction to Pruning – Basic Techniques

Definition of Pruning: "to remove dead or living parts from (a plant) so as to increase fruit or flower production or improve the form"

What is the purpose of pruning trees, shrubs and vines?

Health - remove dead, damaged or diseased branches; sunlight penetration; air circulation; strong structure

Size - control size and shape of the plant; maintaining an appealing shape

Bounty - promote flowering and fruit production

Beauty - head back to produce more flowers; promote new fresh growth; rejuvenate old plants

Pleasure - sculpting for your enjoyment; making your garden a work of art

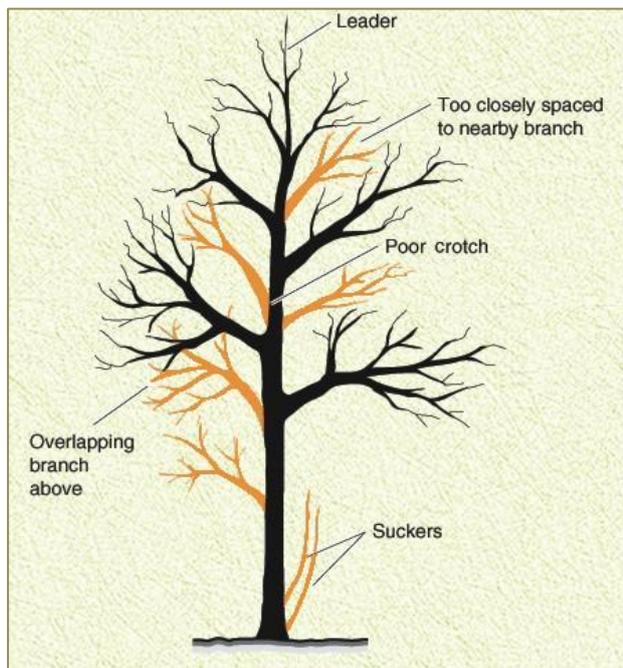
Pruning Tools:

- thumb & forefinger • by-pass pruners • anvil pruners • pruning saw
- loppers • hedge clippers • pruning knife • telescoping tree pruner



Care of Pruning Tools:

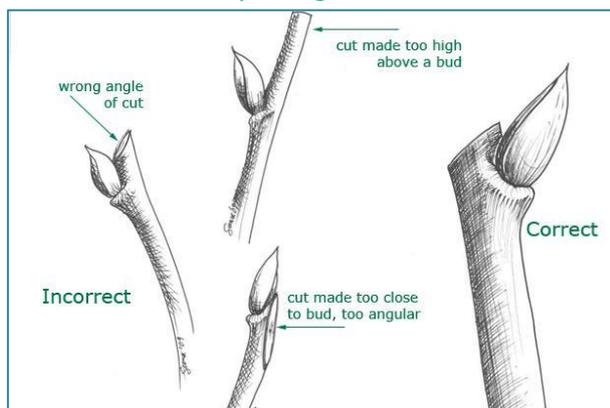
- sharpen regularly for clean cuts - allows wounds to heal rapidly
- clean regularly - prevents spread of diseases, fungus and insect eggs
- soak the blades 1–2 minutes -use full-strength or 1:5 solution of chlorine bleach or disinfectant (e.g. Lysol). • do not dip the blade quickly-not disinfected properly
- disinfectant wipes are effective
- oil steel tool heads to prevent oxidizing
- **Tools should not be left to soak for longer than required as damage can occur.**



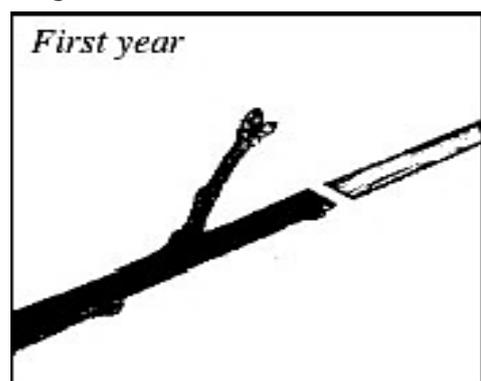
General Rules for Pruning Trees

1. Take out diseased, damaged or rotting branches.
2. Watch for a poor crotch and take out
3. Remove overlapping branches.
4. Remove branches that are too closely spaced to nearby branches.
5. Remove Suckers and watersprouts.
6. Pruning paint is not needed - tree heals better without it

The correct basic pruning cut :



Heading Cut:



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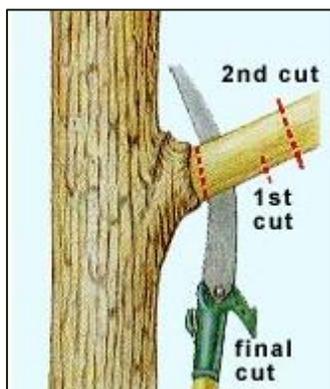
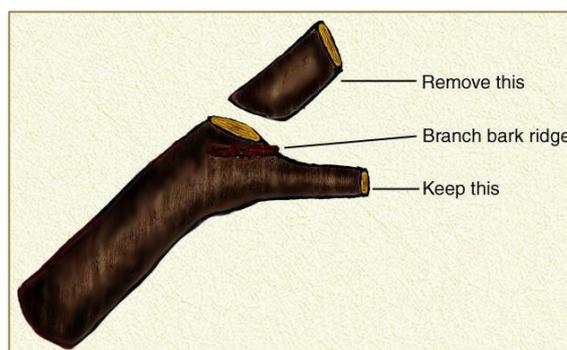
Heading Cut (continued from previous page)

A heading cut, also called a pinching cut, is often used on young trees to slow growth of stems or branches, increase branching on a long thin stem or to maintain an appearance or specific height of the canopy.

Reduction or Drop-Crotching Cut

Reduction or drop-crotching reduces the height of the tree. The height of the terminal branch is reduced to a large lateral.

Thinning removes the unwanted branch to a large lateral branch. The remaining branch should be one-half, but not less than one-third, the size of the branch removed.



Jump-cut

If large branches are removed by a single cut, they often split and produce a larger wound than is necessary for quick, clean closure. Remove such branches by the jump-cut, or drop-cut, method.

On a dead branch that has a collar of live wood, the final cut should be made just beyond the outer edge of the branch collar.

Removal Cut – (in conjunction with a jump-cut)

Removes a branch back to the trunk, or point of attachment on the tree. The part that remains on the tree is larger than the part removed.

The branch collar, a thickened area at the point of attachment of a branch, should be maintained intact. The collar area contains cells that callus rapidly and produce chemicals that can resist disease infection.

Flush cuts, cuts made flush with the trunk and removing the branch collar, should be avoided. Flush cuts open a larger area of the trunk, reduce the tree's ability to heal the wound and increase the chance of decay.

Removal cut



When is the Best Time to Prune?

Late winter or early spring before leaf-out

- causes the least amount of stress on trees

Light pruning can be done anytime

