

Tree Pruning

Pruning and thinning help control diseases, strengthen tree structure, and remove unproductive, diseased, or infected branches to maintain healthy trees. Proper disposal of removed branches prevents reinfection.

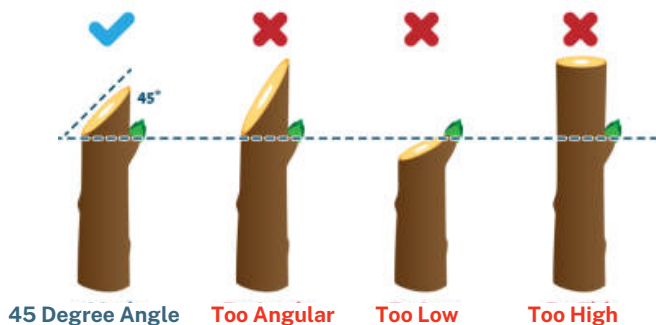
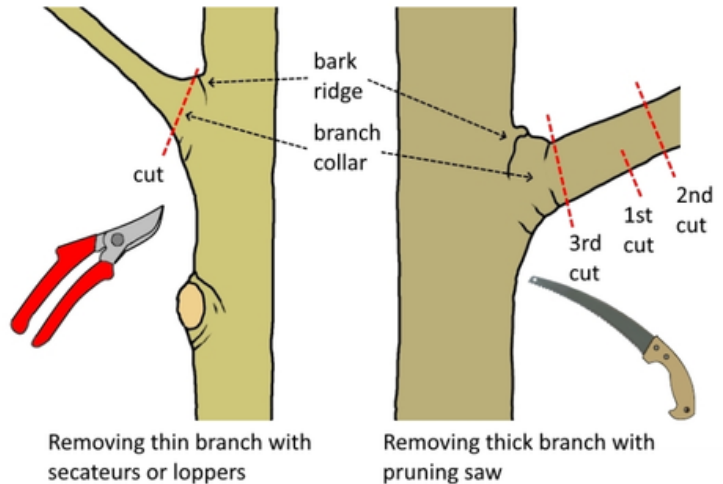
Timing:

- Pruning should occur during the dormant season (late fall to early spring before the buds begin to swell).
- Dead branches can be removed year-round; at planting, only remove diseased or broken branches.
- Shearing of evergreens should be done on new green growth, before the tree starts woody elongation.

Method:

- Prune young trees lightly. More mature trees can be pruned more heavily. Leave one-half to two-thirds of the canopy in all cases.
- As young trees grow, remove lower branches gradually to raise the crown, and remove branches that are too closely spaced on the trunk. Prune to shape young trees, but don't cut back the leader.
- Remove multiple leaders on evergreens and other trees where a single leader is desirable (timber production, shade trees).
- Remove crossing branches, branches that grow back toward the center of the tree, rubbing branches, branch stubs, suckers, and narrow weak crotches.

Pruning Off Branches Correctly - Don't Cut Into the Branch Collar



- 1 Water shoots
- 2 Crossing Branches
- 3 Broken Branches
- 4 Dead Branches
- 5 Diseased Branches
- 6 Hanging Branches
- 7 Suckers

