




# Jovial Concepts

## Fruit Tree Pruning

2024



## Remove branches shown with dotted lines.

- Remove limbs that extend beyond the natural outline of the crown

- Remove dead, broken or crossing limbs.

- Remove limbs that turn inward towards the trunk.

- Don't leave branch stubs.

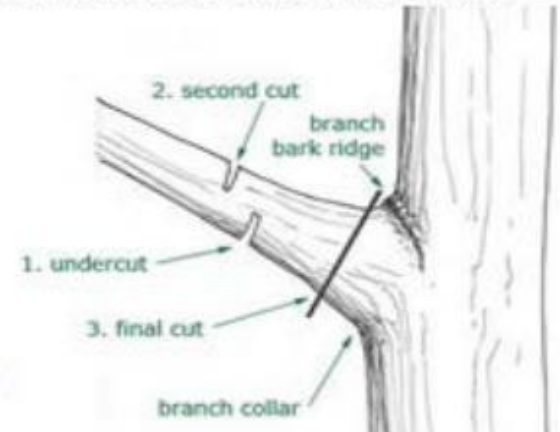
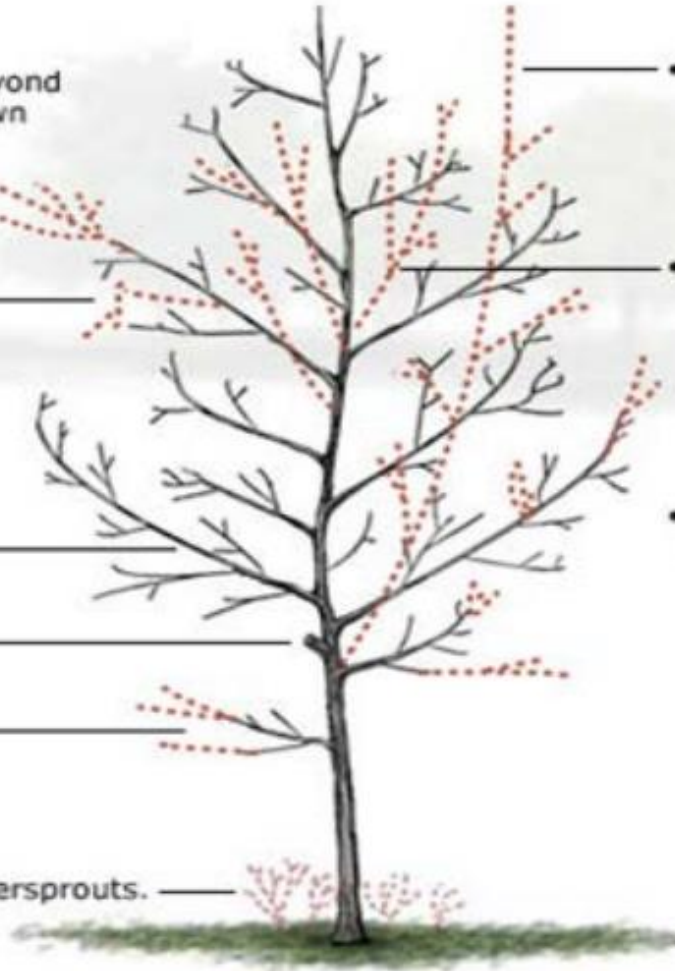
- Shorten low branches to develop trunk thickness.

- Remove root suckers and watersprouts.

- Remove competing main stems to develop a single trunk.

- Remove sharp, V-shaped branch attachments.

- Always make pruning cuts on the outside of the branch collar.





# Rules & Objectives

1

Be Careful! Safety First - Keep Those Shears Locked!

2

Don't remove more than 25% of the canopy.

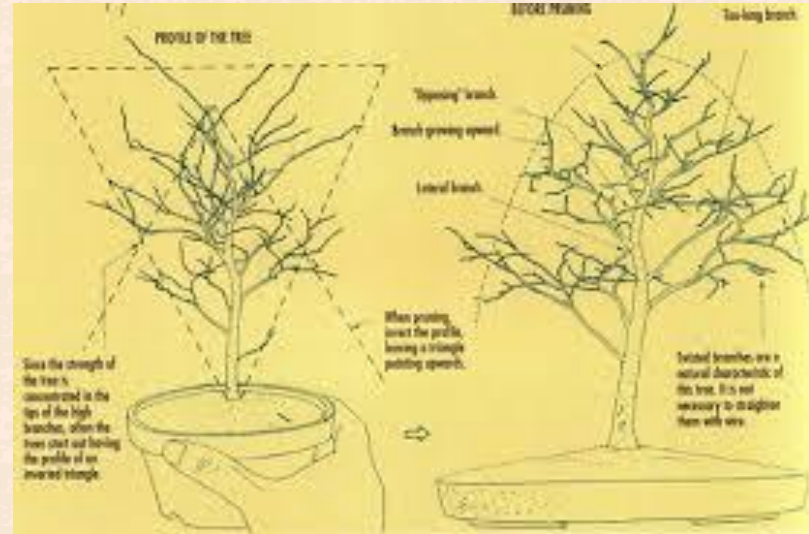
3

Open The Canopy For Airflow.

4

Keep the shape in mind! Tap into your Zen spirit and don't stress it.

# Shaping Trees



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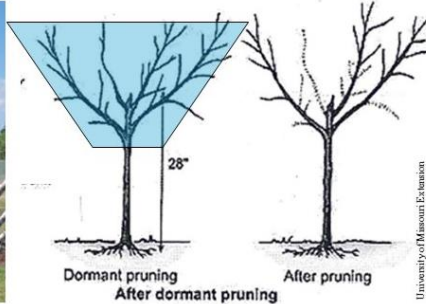


**Strong Branches, Strong Trees, Lots of Fruit!**



# Shaping Trees

## Open Center Pruning

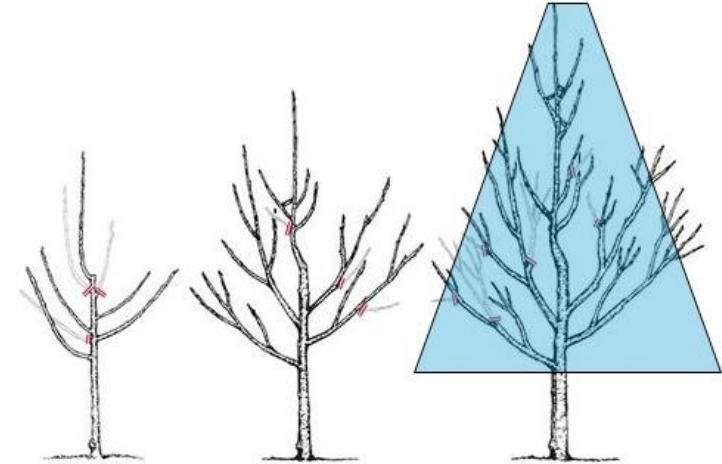


Peach, Nectarine, Persimmon, Plum

Bloom from 1-year old wood; wait till flower break or

## Central and Modified Leader

Image: wilsonbrosgardens.com



1st Year

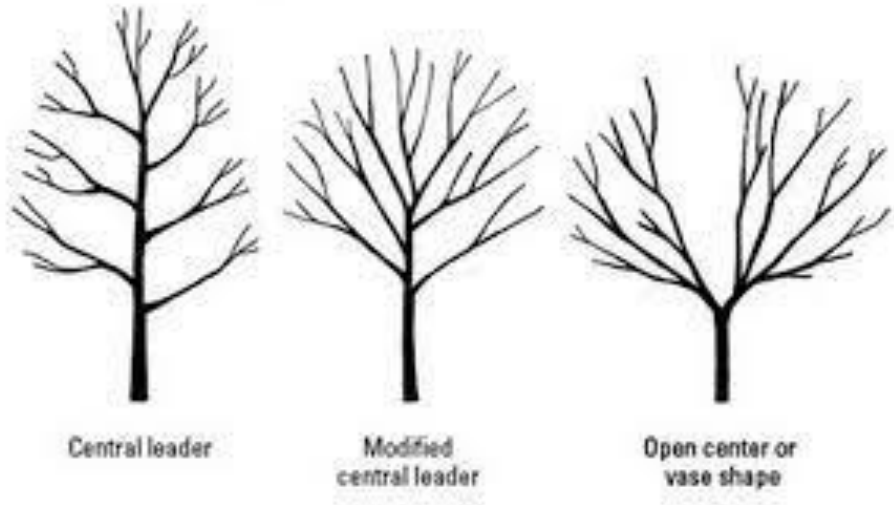
2nd Year

3rd Year

Apple, Pear, Pecan, Persimmon

Bloom from 2-year old wood

# Shaping Trees

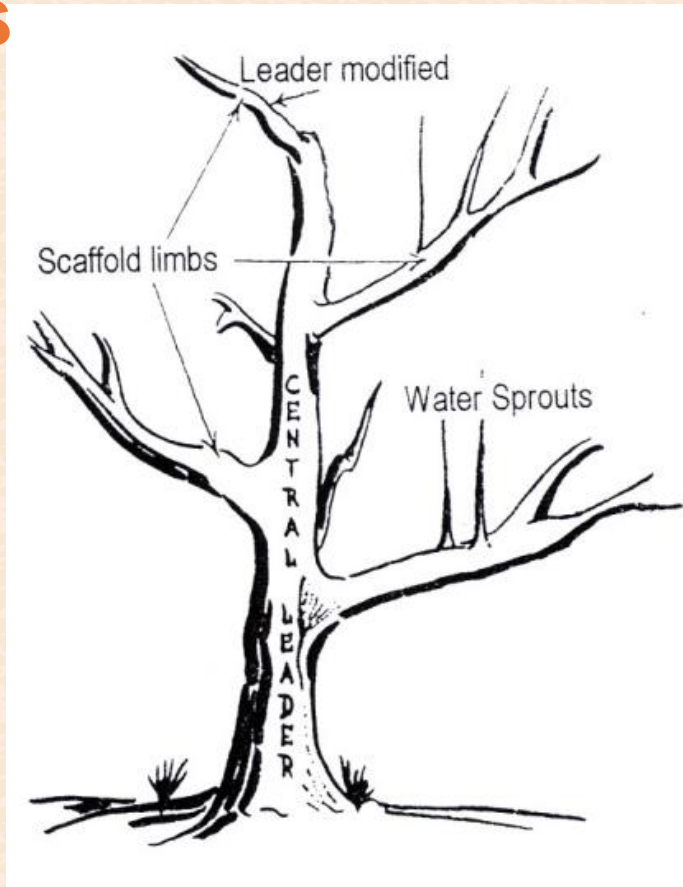


## Common Fruit Tree Training Systems



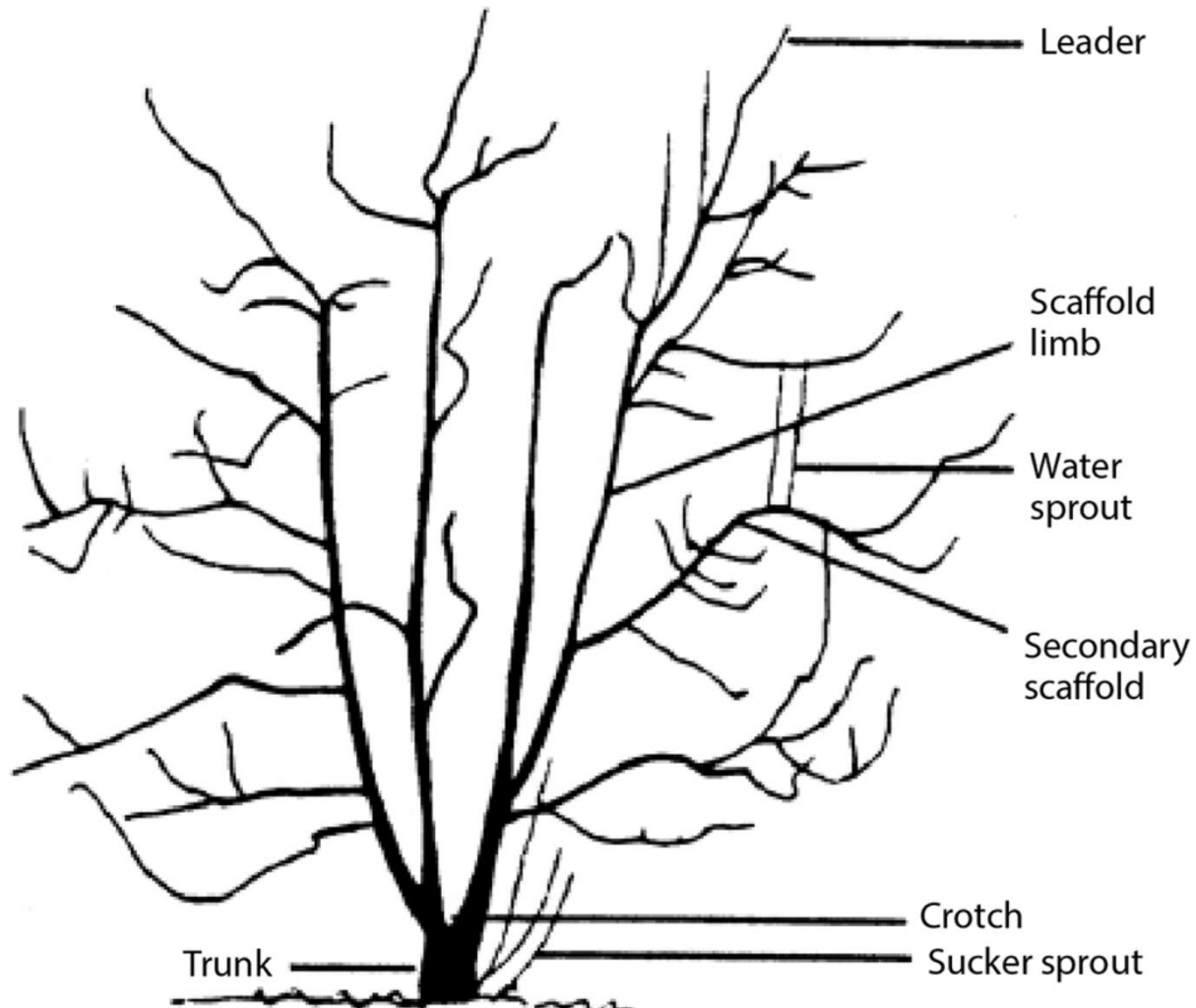


# General Terms

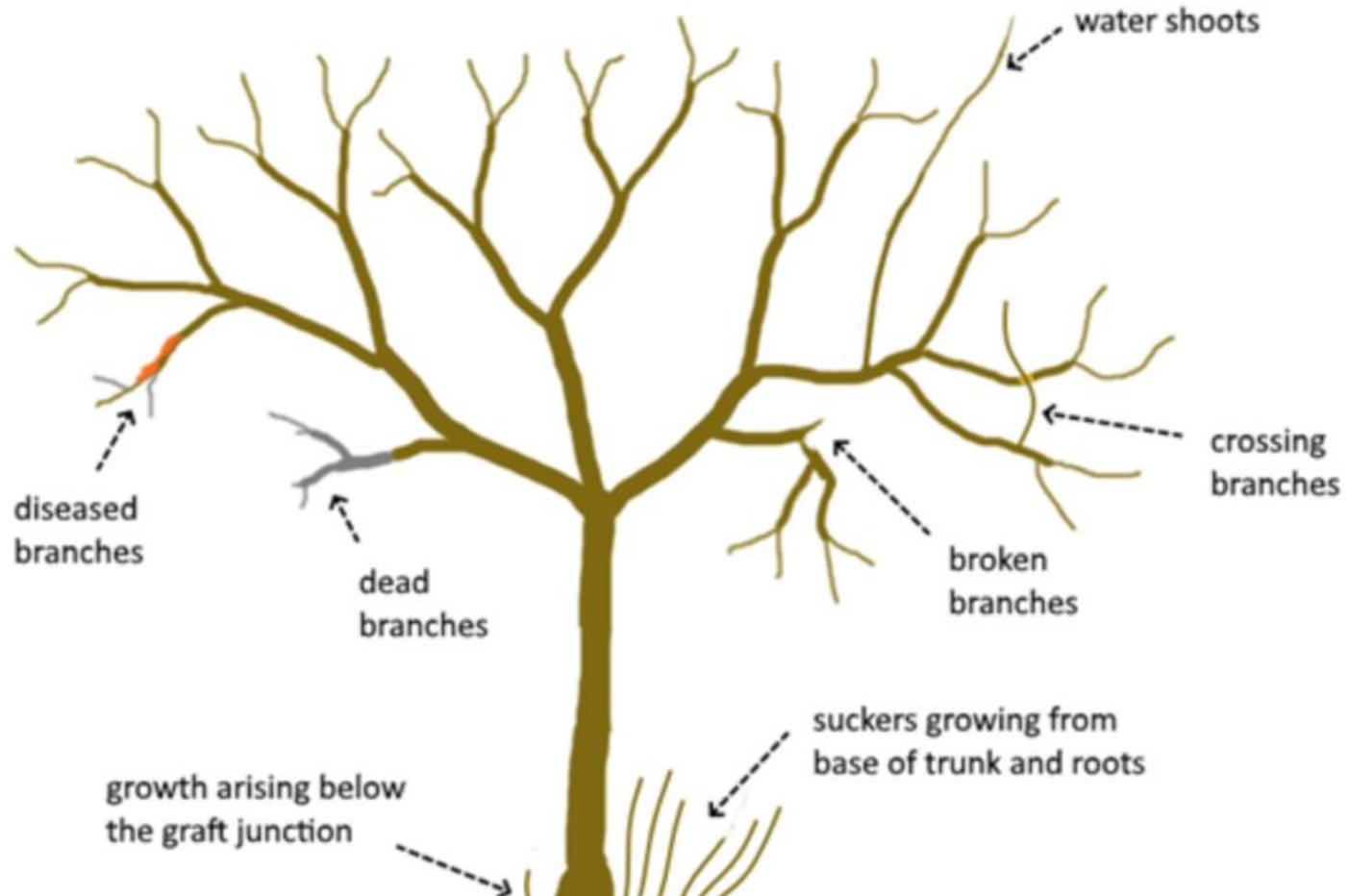


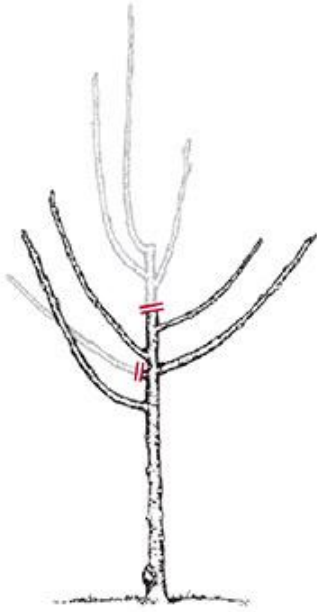
# Open Vase - Peaches, Plums, Apricots



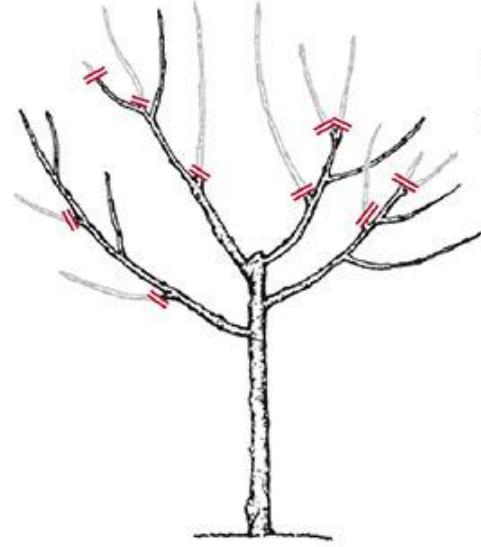


## Before Any Pruning, Remove Unwanted Growth

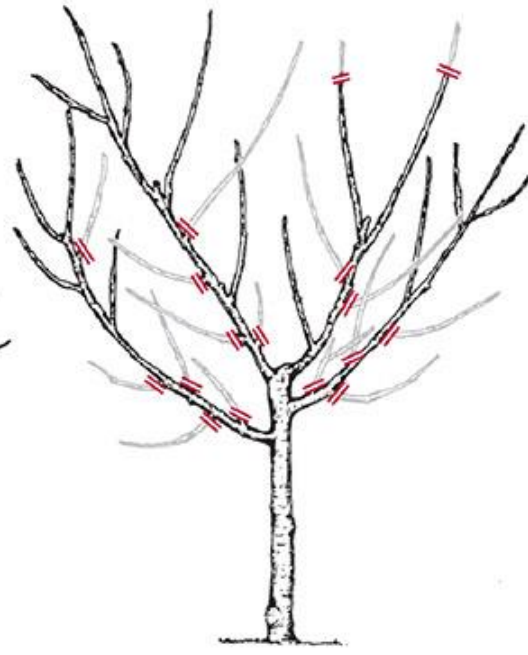




*First year  
spring*



*Second year  
spring*



*Third year  
spring*

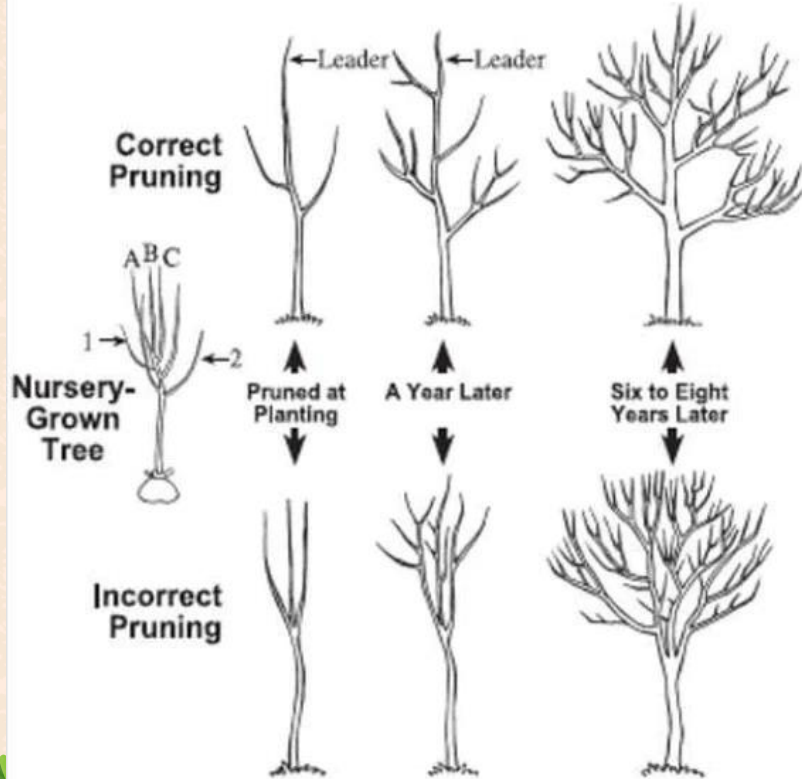
**Open center pruning**

# Central Leader - Apples, Pears



# Apple and Pears

## Training



- Objective is to develop a central leader with wide angled limbs around trunk
- Unbranched - cut to 32 in.
- Branched - remove broken branches, angles less than 45 degrees and competing leaders
- 2nd year - head back central leader by 1/3 and select scaffolds
- Develop scaffolds
- Maximize light to spurs

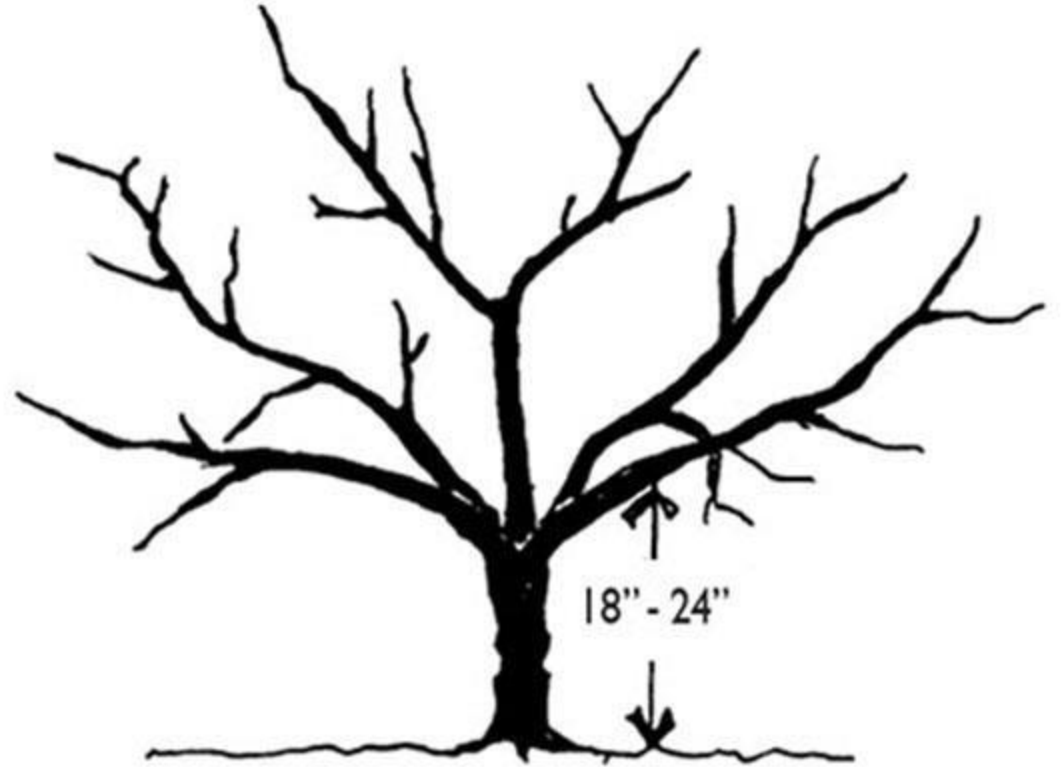
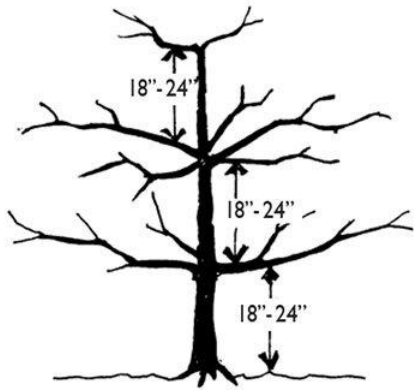
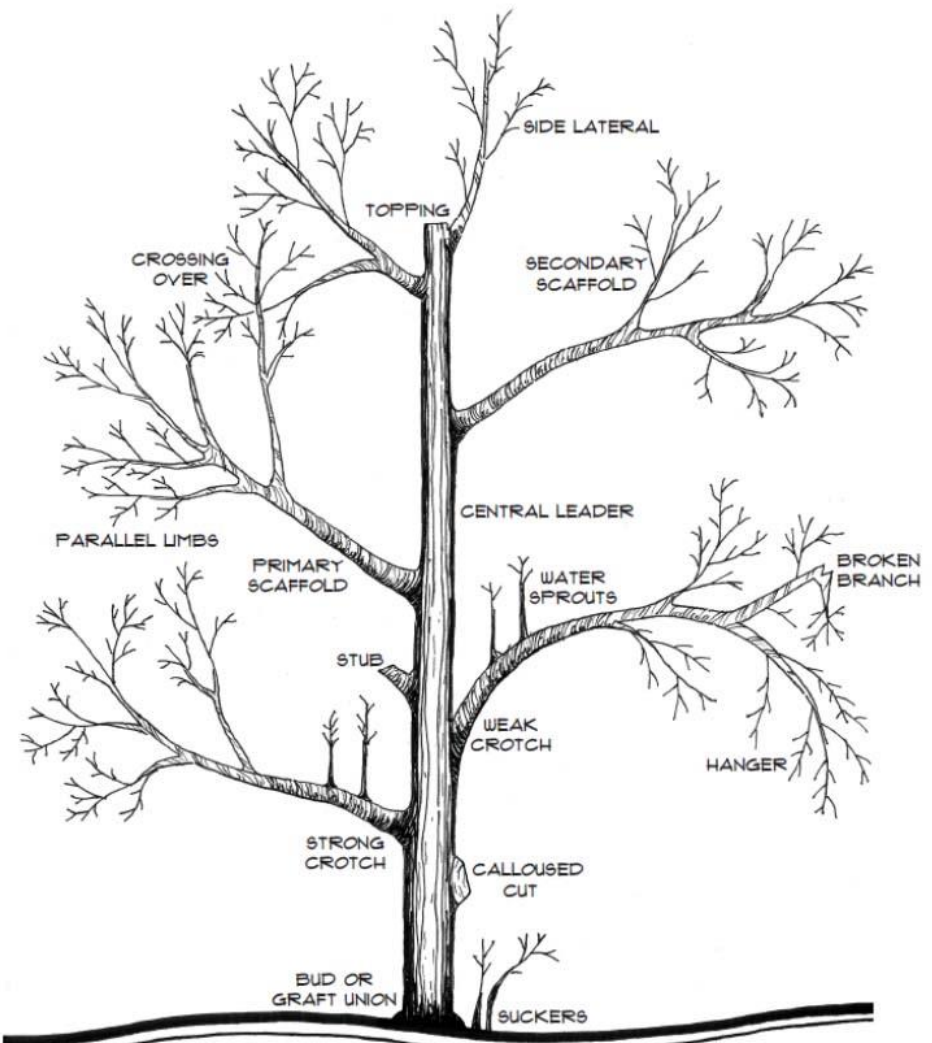


Figure N-13. Wide-angle crotches and properly spaced scaffold.



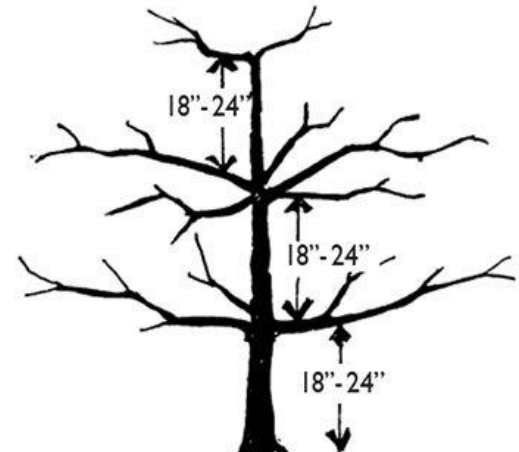


# Water Sprouts

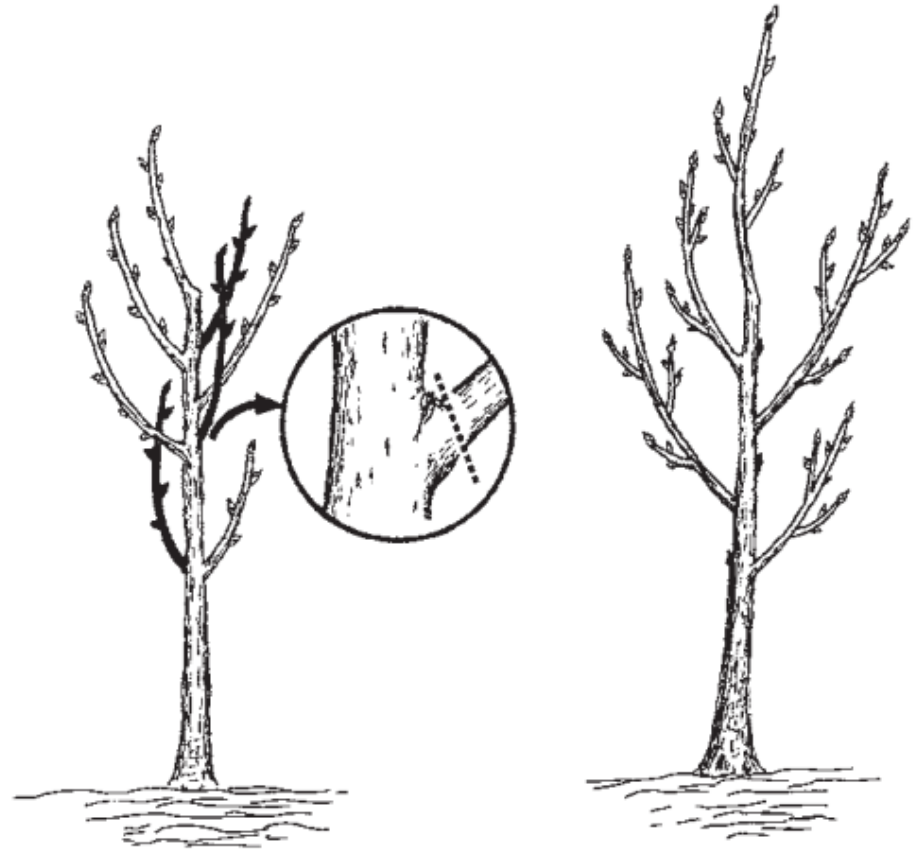


# Scaffold Limbs

- Large limbs that form a tree's framework.
- Select 4-5 scaffolds that originate on different sides of the main leader,
- The lowest should be 18 inches from the ground and face the mountains.
- Scaffolds shouldn't be closer than 10-12 inches at their base
- Maintain Wide Angles (around 60 degrees)



# Crowd Control



**Figure 2:** Prune interfering, weak or crowded branches. Stems in black are the ones to be removed (left). Make the cut outside of branch bark ridge and collar (circle insert)

# General Strategy

- Look for strong branches with wide branch angles.
- Remove branches that:
  - grow inward
  - are close together
  - don't fit the vision
  - Grow at a V-angle

## Where are the fruit buds?

Cherry



At least 2 year old wood

Plum



2-5 year wood

Peach



Previous year's wood

Pear

At least 2 year old wood



Apple

At least 2 year old wood



# Less than 98 Degrees

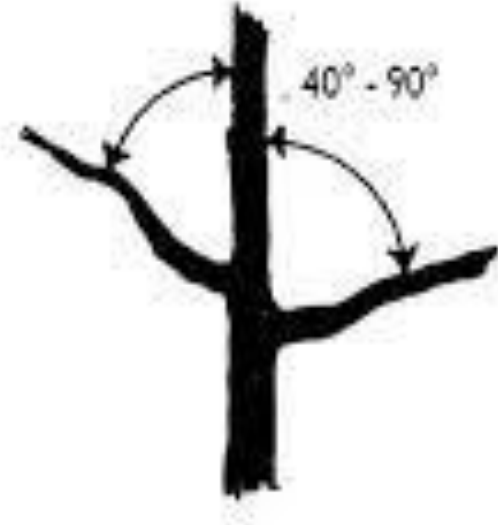
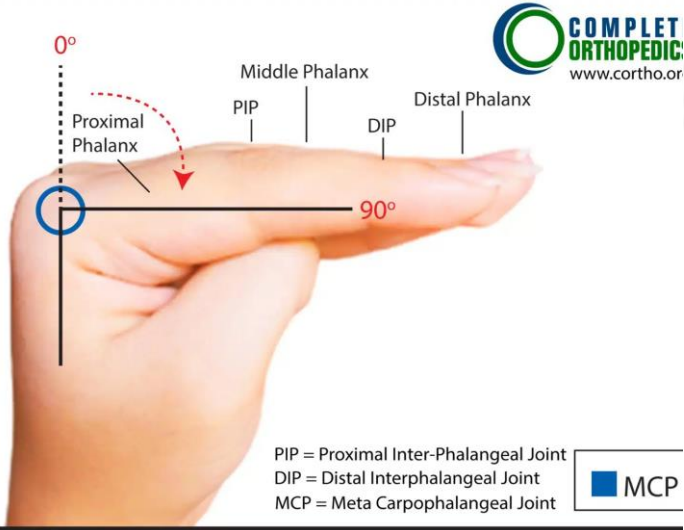


Figure N-14. Narrow-angle crotches on the left and wide-angle crotches on the right. The wide-angle crotches are stronger.



# Tools & General Terms

Hand Shears - Bypass style



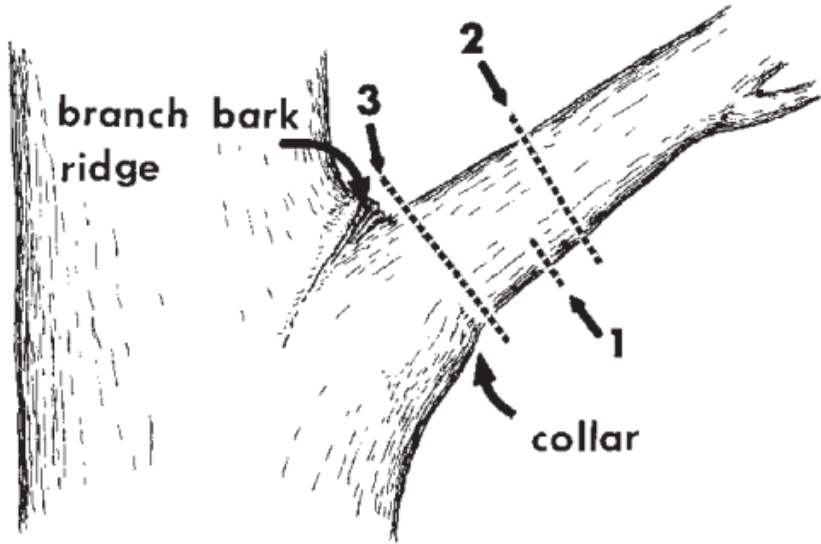
Loppers



Hand Shears - Anvil Style

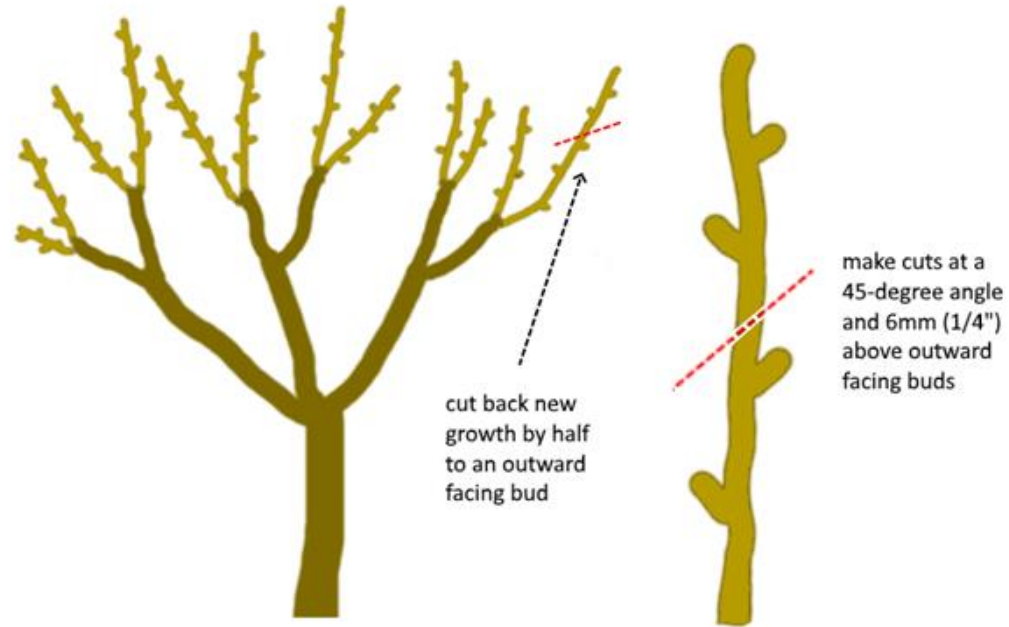


# Cuts

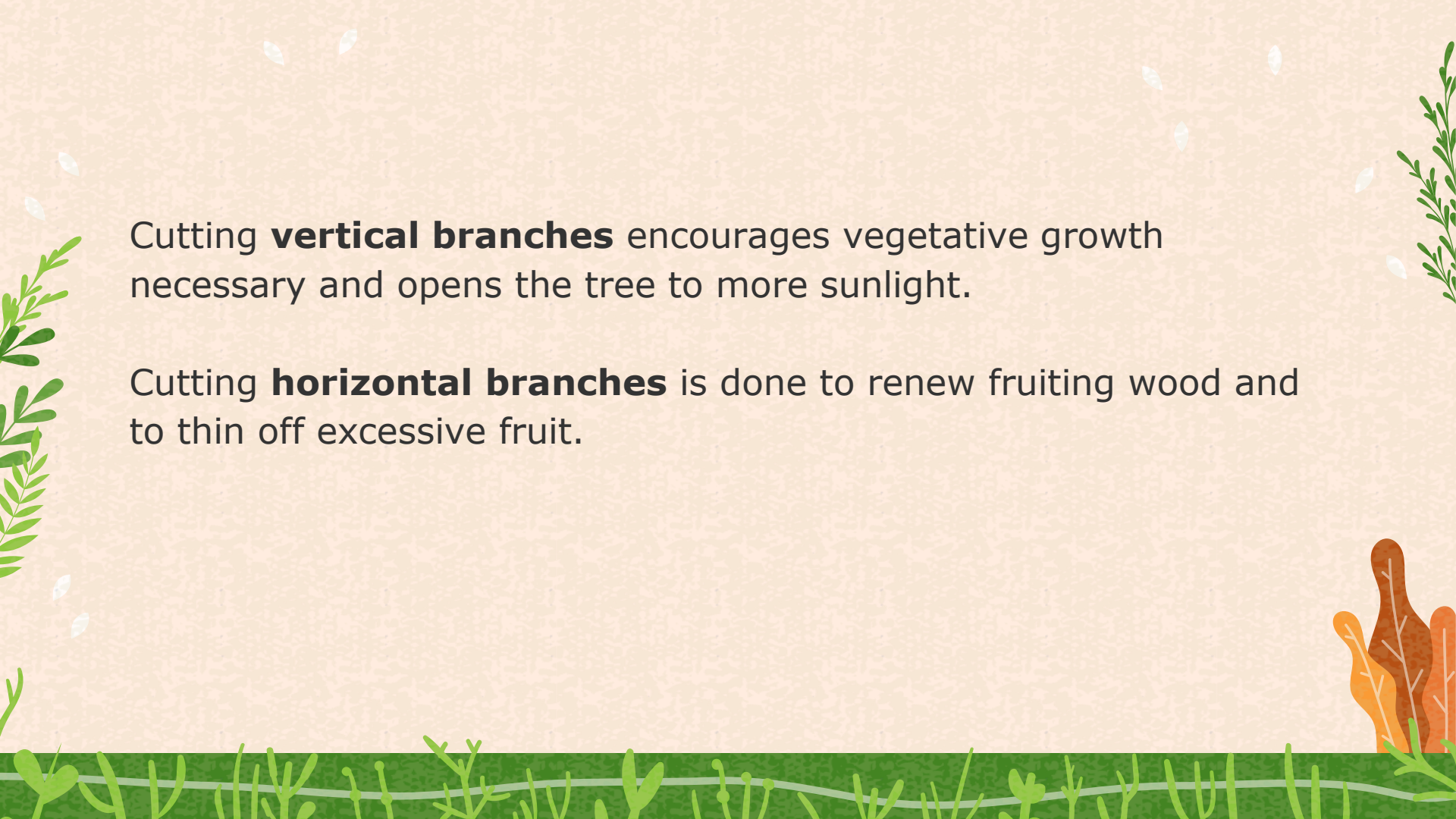


**Figure 3:** Use a three-step pruning method on large limbs. 1) Undercut to prevent bark stripping. 2) Remove most of limb. 3) Remove stub, making cut outside of branch bark ridge and collar.

## Pruning Fruit Trees - The Basic Rule of Pruning

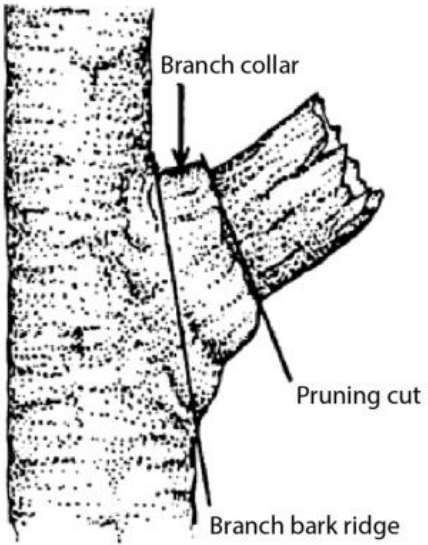




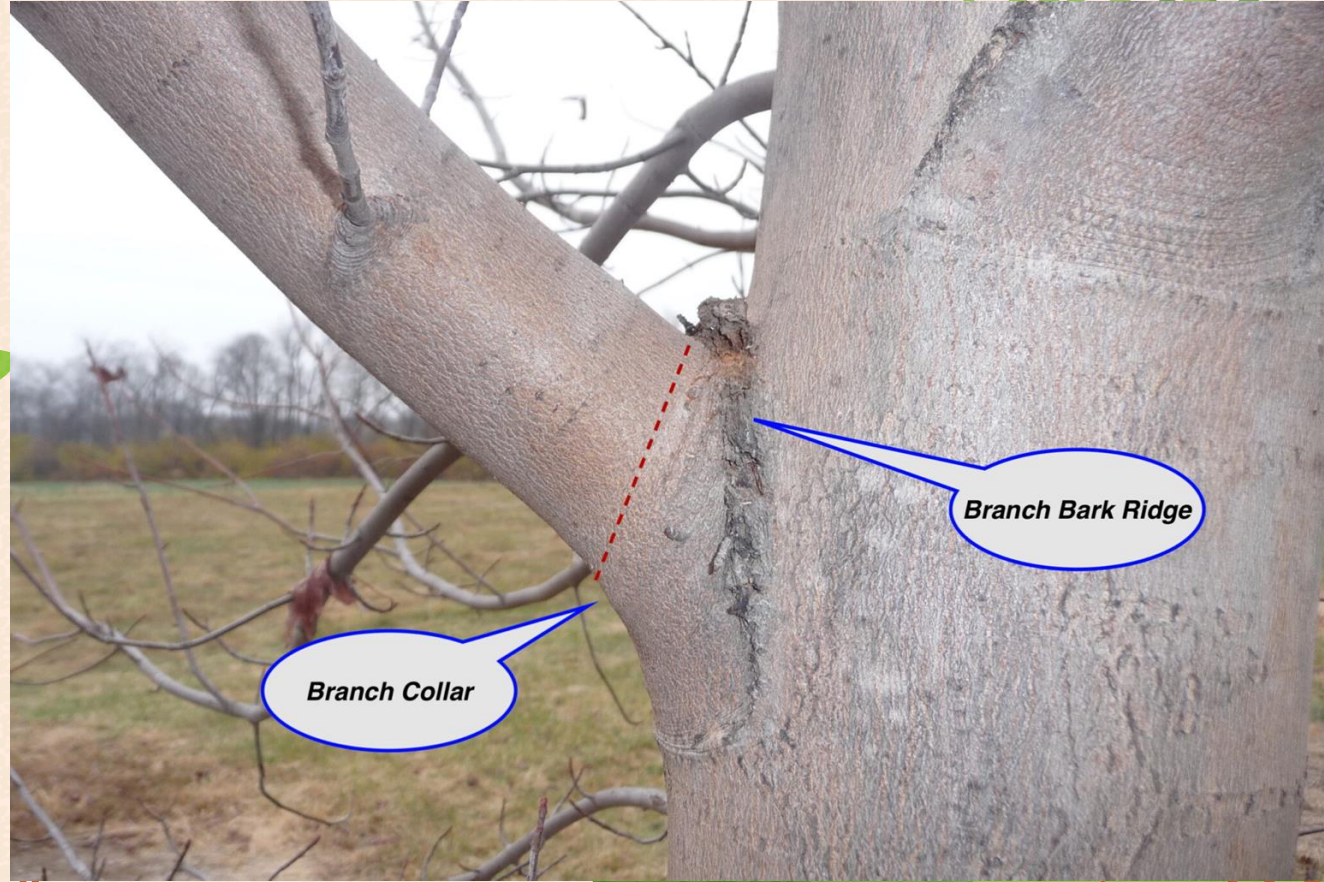


Cutting **vertical branches** encourages vegetative growth necessary and opens the tree to more sunlight.

Cutting **horizontal branches** is done to renew fruiting wood and to thin off excessive fruit.



**Figure 2.** Always preserve the branch collar, the raised tissue at the base of every branch. The branch collar contains specialized cells that allow a tree to seal off pruning wounds and prevent rot from damaging the branch's heartwood. Make your pruning cut at an equal and opposite angle from the branch bark ridge.



# Steps

- 
- First step, Dead&Diseased** 01 Remove Dead, Diseased, Damaged Branches
  - Remove Suckers** 02 Remove Suckers and watersprouts
  - Choose Scaffold Branches** 03 Open the center canopy for air flow and light!
  - Open The Canopy** 04 Remove Criss-Crossing Branching growing inward
  - Shape The Three** 05 Continue Shaping; Don't remove more than 25% of the canopy!
  - Continue, Next Year** 06 Training is a process which occurs over years!

# Fireblight



Figure 2. Characteristic fire blight symptoms on apple. Note the shepherd crook end and bacterial ooze in photo A and blackened spur in photo B. *Photo credit: USU Extension IPM Program.*



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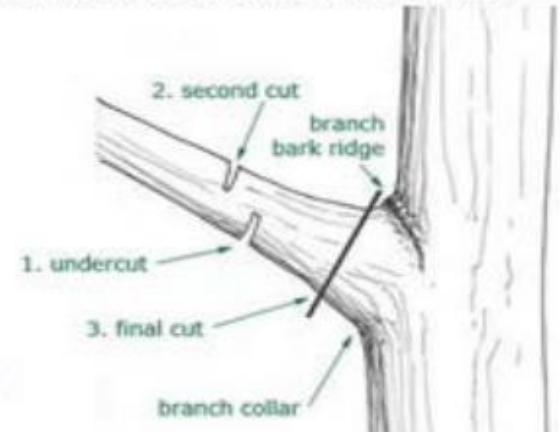
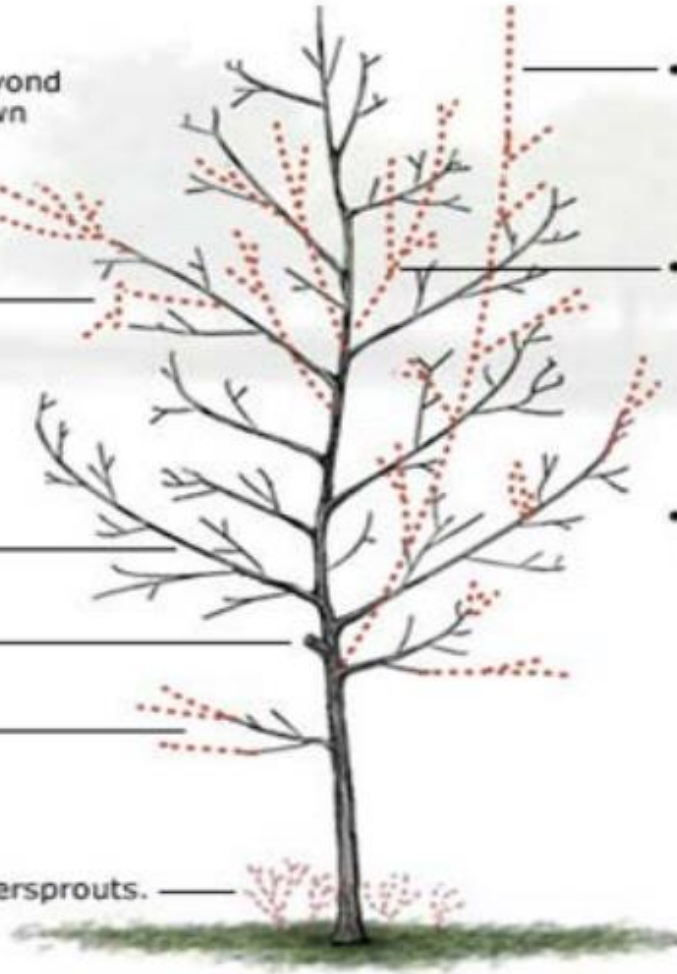
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# Sources & Additional Information

- [https://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The\\_Big\\_Picture/Pruning\\_&\\_Training/](https://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pruning_&_Training/)
- <https://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/yard-garden/training-and-pruning-fruit-trees-7003/>
- <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/default/files/catalog/auto/PNW400.pdf>
- <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/annual-pruning-of-fruit-trees.html>
- <https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/training-and-pruning-apple-trees>
- <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/annual-pruning-of-fruit-trees.html>
- [https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFS\\_Main/Urban\\_and\\_Community\\_Forestry/About\\_Urban\\_and\\_Community\\_Forestry/Urban\\_Forest\\_Information\\_Sheets/How%20do%20I%20care%20for%20my%20tree%20-%20Pruning%20Young%20Trees.pdf](https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFS_Main/Urban_and_Community_Forestry/About_Urban_and_Community_Forestry/Urban_Forest_Information_Sheets/How%20do%20I%20care%20for%20my%20tree%20-%20Pruning%20Young%20Trees.pdf)
- <https://mtmastergardener.org/news/1907/educational-video-series-on-growing-small-fruit-and-tree-fruit-in-montana>



# Jovial Concepts

Welcome To the Team!!

