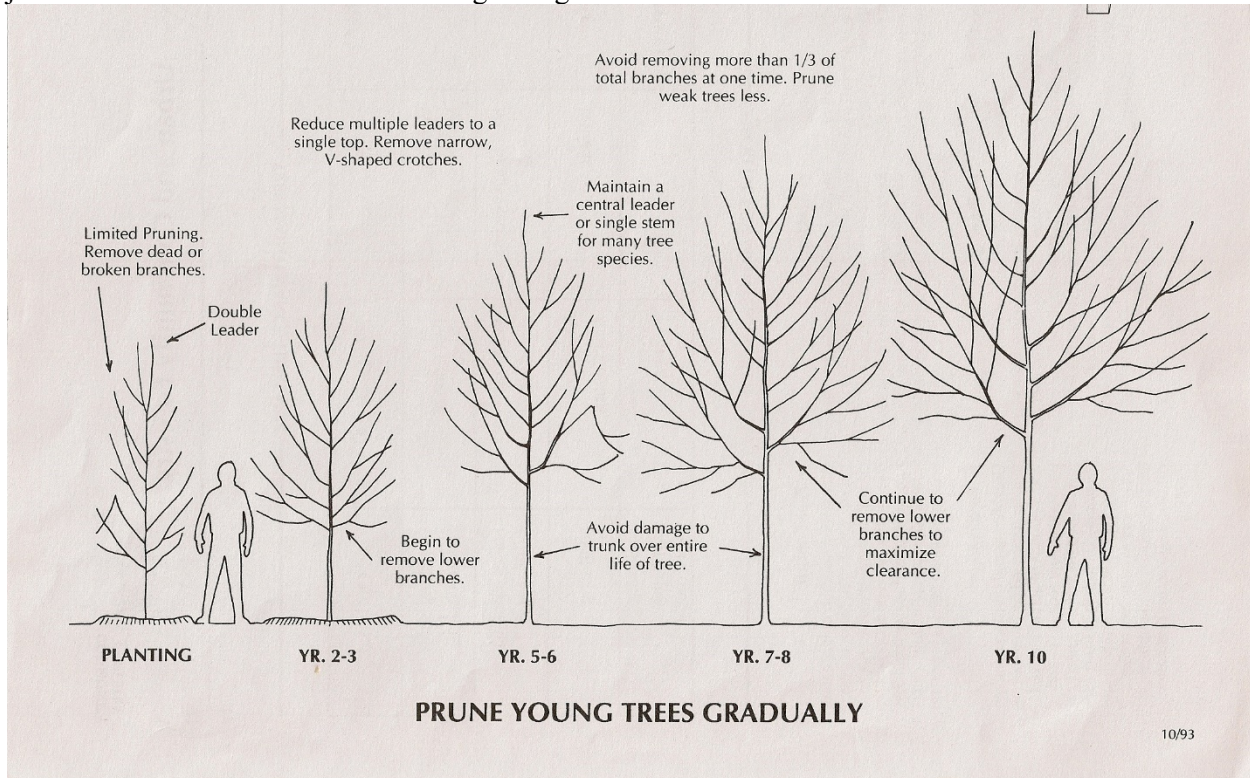


Archive for March, 2013

Pruning Season Is Here!

Friday, March 8th, 2013

From now through the end of April is the best time of year to prune trees. So, if you have a landscape tree or two (or three, or four, or.....) get out the pruning tools and attack those problem limbs and branches in order to make room for the spring growth flush to reinvigorate the tree and improve the form and strength of your tree(s). Shown below are a few reminders of pruning techniques and methods that should help with the process. Let's "get 'er done now" before we get too far into planting season; which is just around the corner. It's time to start growing!

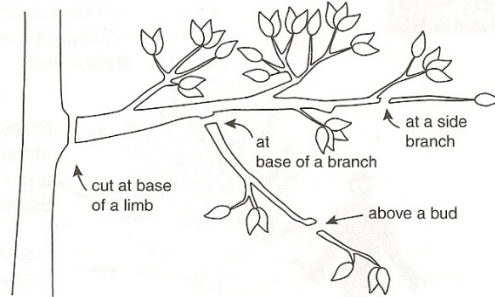


Pruning young trees properly is the single best thing you can do to assure future health, vigor and strength. Doing these things helps the older tree endure and better prevail through whatever future environmental conditions it might encounter.

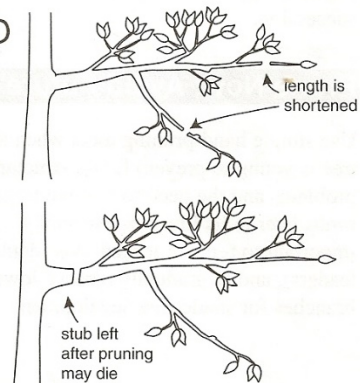
Remove Whole Limbs or Branches

It is preferable to remove an entire limb or branch rather than to shorten its length. Branches may be cut back to a twig, or twigs to a bud, where new growth will resume. This technique respects natural growth patterns.

YES

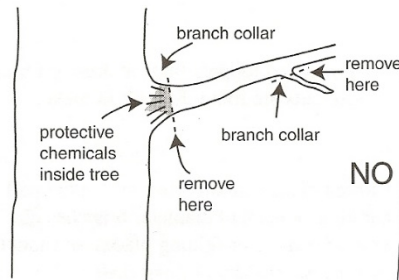


NO

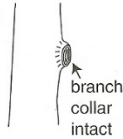


Save Branch Collars

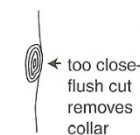
Trees produce natural chemicals to prevent decay from entering the tree at the base of each branch or limb. To preserve this chemical zone, leave the slight swelling, or branch collar, at the branch base. The resulting wound will be smaller than if the branch were cut flush. This rule applies to large limbs and small branches.



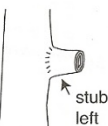
YES



NO

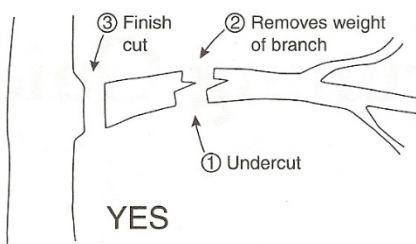


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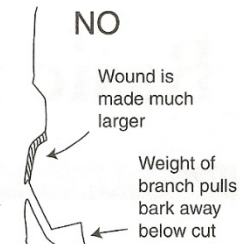
Use the Three-Cut Method

Branches one inch in diameter or larger should generally be removed in a series of three cuts. This will prevent bark attached to the base of the cut branch from stripping away bark on the trunk as it falls.



YES

NO

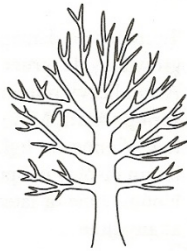


Remember.....

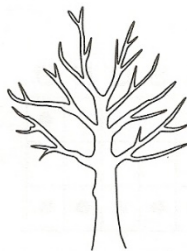
Don't Overprune

It is best to remove only a small percentage of the live part of a tree at one time---a maximum of 25 percent in one year for healthy, vigorous trees. This will help maintain a balance between leaf area and other tree functions. Prune weak or declining trees less. Severe pruning may stimulate undesirable sprouting from the stem or roots. Avoid pruning over 25 percent of the live crown of any tree two years in succession.

YES

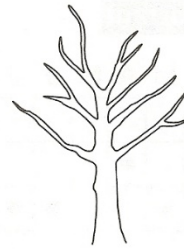


Plan pruning
work in advance



Remove up to
25% of crown
for healthy tree

NO



Heavy pruning
should be done over
several seasons



Topping is very
harmful to trees.
DON'T DO IT!

And.....

EXPERTS AGREE

DON'T

TOP YOUR

TREE