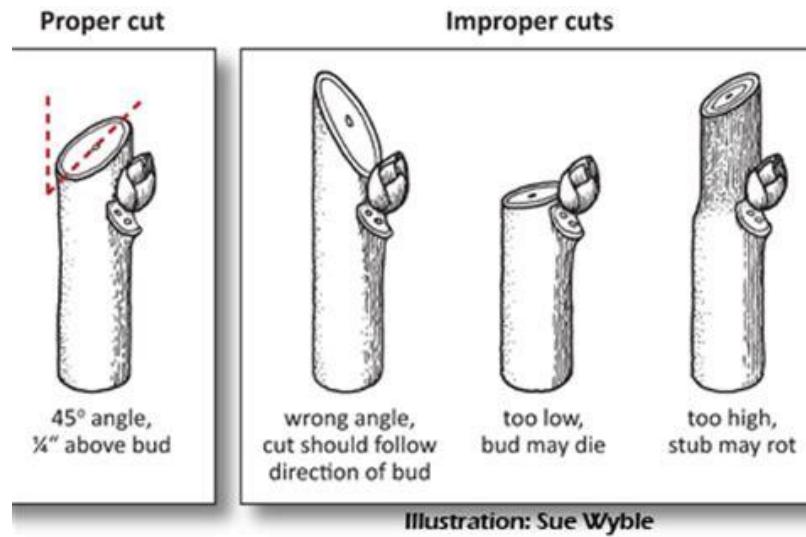
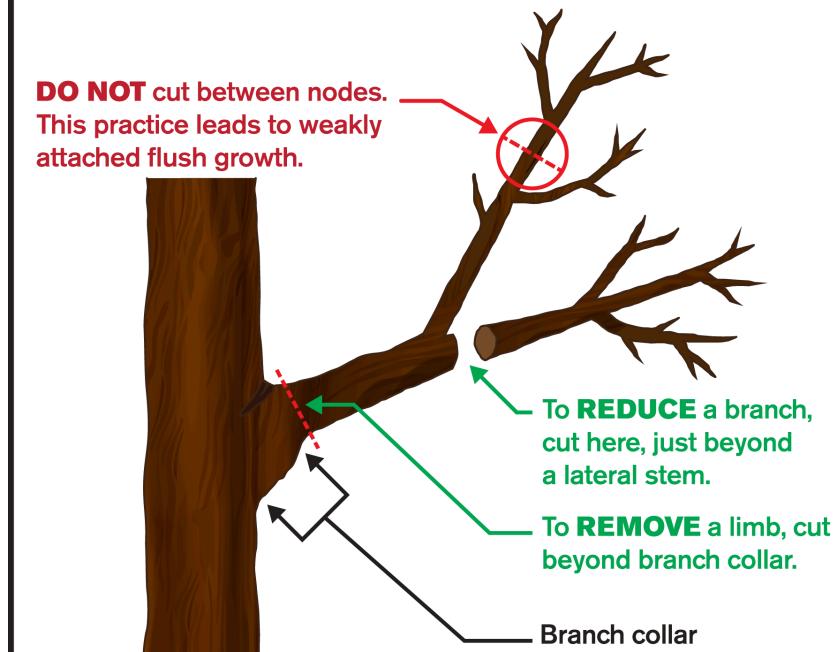


Fruit Tree Pruning Basics



How to Remove a Tree Branch or Limb



The 4 D's of pruning:

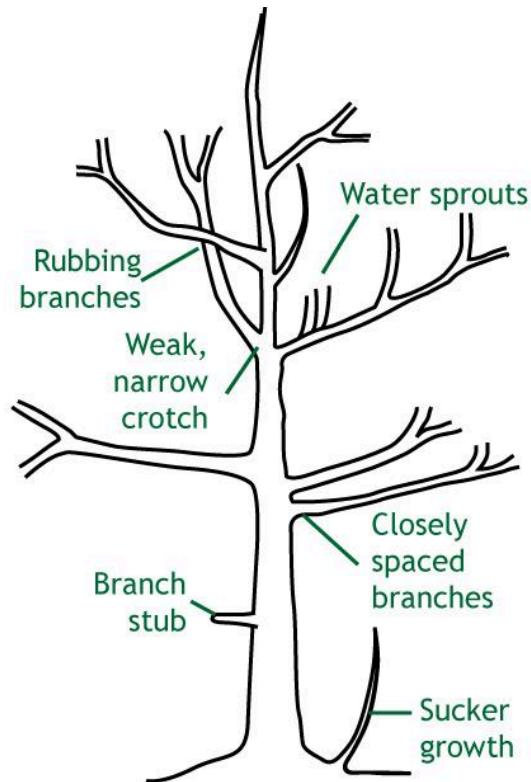
Written by Nicole Sanchez and copied from North Carolina State University Extension

Dead: Cutting dead material out of the plant first not only gets it out of the way, but reduces opportunities for insects and disease to gain a foothold.

Diseased: If it is weak, spindly, has visual symptoms of disease, or looks abnormal compared to the rest of the plant, get it out of there. Keep a solution of 10% bleach water handy to dip pruners in after each cut. This way, you won't re-infect the plant at the new cut.

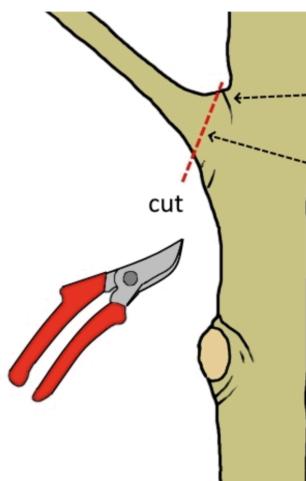
Damaged: Remove branches and plant parts damaged by storms, animals, kids, and any other type of physical damage. In addition to being unattractive, damaged material is often an entry point for disease and insects, and can lead to problems down the road.

Deranged: Remove "nonconformist" branches that rub against the trunk or other branches, that point the wrong way, that cross other branches, and those that arise from the base of the plant when they should not. This type of growth is not adding to the aesthetic value of your plant.

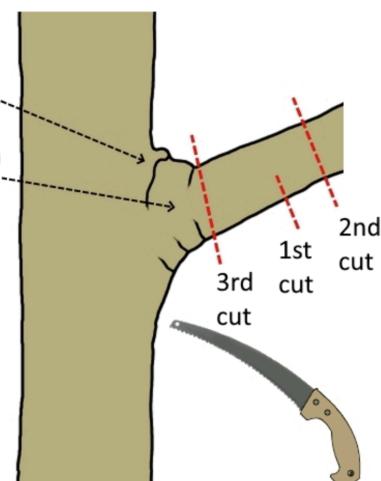


of

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



Removing thin branch with secateurs or loppers



Removing thick branch with pruning saw

Training of Young Trees

annotated from "How to Prune Fruit Trees" by R. Sanford Martin

The success of any fruit tree, particularly the deciduous types, depends a great deal upon the initial training which it receives during the first three years after being planted. The instructions will apply to any type of deciduous tree with exceptions of Walnuts and Pecans...All of this pruning should be done during the winter while tree is dormant. This structure is called an Open Center training system.

First Year:

1. Properly plant the bare root tree as per planting instructions provided.
2. Cut off the main leader or central stem, at about 30" from the ground.
3. If there are any lateral branches on the tree, make this cut immediately above a good strong lateral branch...
4. Select two other lateral branches...one about 8" below the top one, and another about 16" below the top one.
5. The selected branches should be evenly spaced around the main trunk (see illustration).
6. Head each lateral branch back to about one-half their total length. THese three branches are the framework of the future tree.
7. Optional: As the tree grows allow only two buds to develop branches on each of the framework branches; one at the end, and one about halfway between the end and the base. Rub off any other shoots that may appear on the trunk as suckers.

Second Year:

1. Cut back main scaffolding branches about $\frac{2}{3}$ of their length. Cut just above a strong bud or lateral branch.
2. Head back lateral branches $\frac{1}{2}$ their length.

By the **Third Year**, your trees will be pruned during the dormant season of winter, in the following manner to produce fruit:

