

WHY PRUNE MY TREES?

It has been shown that proper pruning of trees will produce more attractive and much stronger, older trees. This procedure is also very helpful in maintaining the size and health of the tree or plant as well as preventing overgrowth in restricted areas. If you have newly planted or replanted trees, pruning should be delayed for this season, since pruning on new or replanted trees can slow down the root growth and cause a loss of leaves and potentially sun scald. However, if these trees have broken limbs, diseased or damaged limbs, these should be removed.

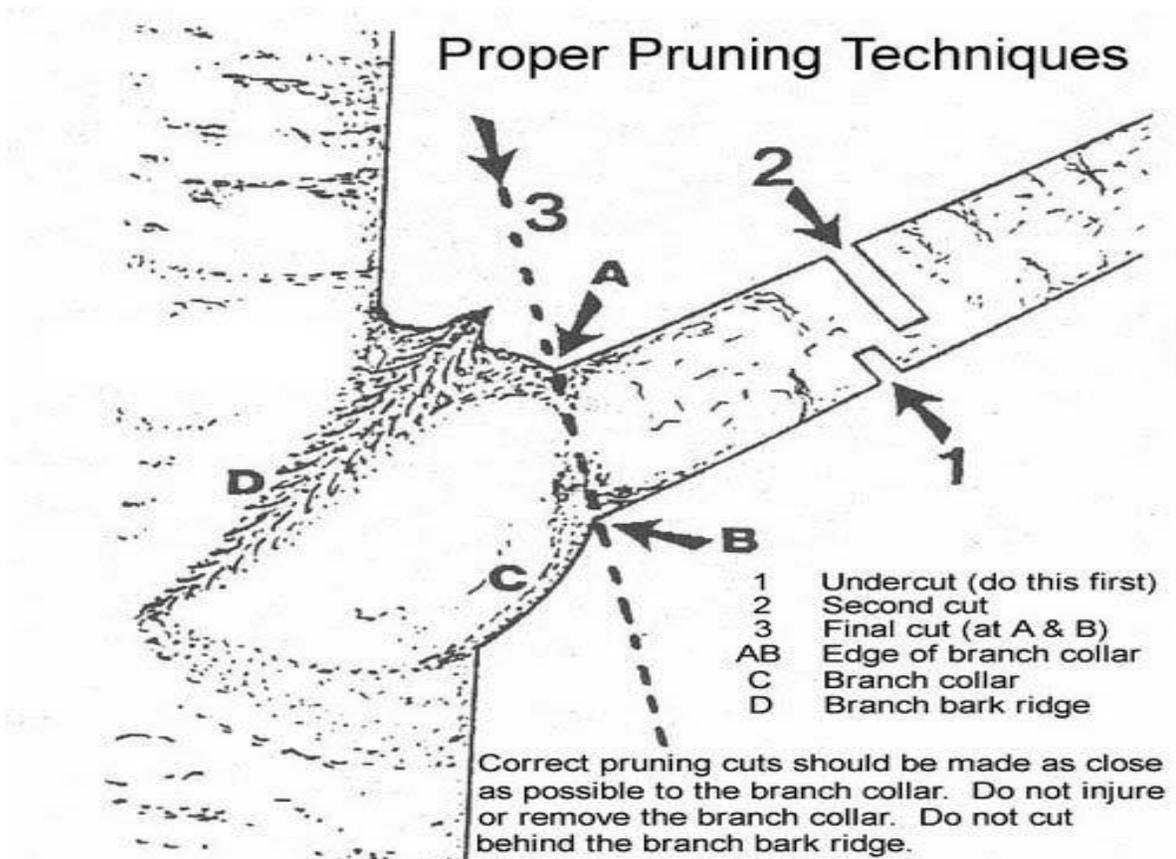
You may have heard an old saying that “a tree may be pruned anytime”. This is generally true, but the best and most preferred time is in the autumn season after the trees have gone dormant. At this time you will also have fewer insects around that can invade or cause damage to the pruned areas. It has been suggested that you do not prune in the spring when new growth is occurring as unnecessary damage may occur.

What type of tools should you have in order to make your task easier and help to make the proper cuts?

1. Looping Shears
2. Folding Saw
3. Bow Saw
4. Hand Pruner

First, make sure your tools are sharp and clean. Also, make sure to clean each tool after using in order to prevent the transfer of potential diseases. It is important that the “collar”, located at the base of the limb and on the tree trunk, not be damaged or removed. When removing larger limbs, follow this procedure:

1. Make a small cut underneath the limb, cutting about 25-50% of the limb about 4-5 inches from the trunk.
2. Make the 2nd cut about 2-3 inches from the 1st cut. Cut about 50% of the limb. This will allow the limb to fall and, while doing so, also prevent the bark from being stripped from the trunk.
3. Make the 3rd cut to cut the stub back to the “collar”. Do not damage the collar.



If you have very large trees, it is recommended that you call an arborist. They should have the proper equipment for pruning large trees.

For additional and more detailed information:

- 1) Click on our website at tulsamastergardeners.org, then "LAWN & GARDEN", then "TREES and SHRUBS" or,
- 2) Click on Fact Sheet [HLA-6409](#) or,
- 3) Visit our office located at 4116 E. 15th St. (Fairgrounds Gate 6) anytime from 9:00am - 4:00pm Monday through Friday or call 918-746-4301.