



HOPPE'S TREE SERVICE

Pruning Treatment Definitions

PRUNING LEVEL I – CLEARANCE PRUNING

Clearance pruning shall include removal of branches to provide a minimum of 3 feet from building/structures, 8 feet over sidewalks, and 8 feet from roofs, 14 feet over roadways. Will not prune if the tree is within 10 ft of power lines.

PRUNING LEVEL II – CLEARANCE AND CROWN CLEAN

Pruning shall consist of selective pruning to remove the following: dead, diseased, and/or broken branches over 2 inches diameter. Prune out the lowest sucker growth. Include standard clearance: 3 ft from building and structures, 8 ft over the sidewalk, 8 ft from roofs, and 14 ft over the roadway. Will not prune if the tree is within 10 ft of power lines.

PRUNING LEVEL III – COMPLETE PRUNING

A complete pruning of a tree to improve health, aesthetics, and structure. This includes – hazard reduction pruning, removing deadwood, clearance pruning, remove lowest sucker growth, end weight reduction where necessary, and pruning to address structural defects where possible. All pruning to conform to ANSI-A300 industry pruning standards. Will not prune within 10 ft of overhead power lines.



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TREE SERVICE

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CLEARANCE PRUNING

Head back or remove limbs to increase clearance from buildings, wires, lights, sidewalks, roads, etc.

Standard clearance specifications:

- Buildings – 3 ft clearance
- Roof – 8 ft clearance
- Sidewalk – 8 ft vertical clearance
- Chimney – 10 ft clearance
- Roads – 14 ft vertical clearance

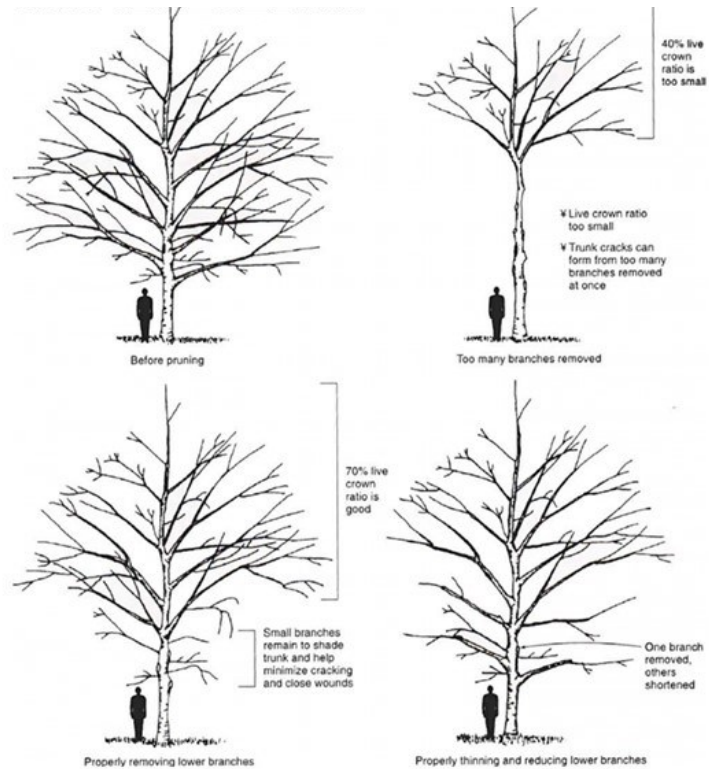


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CROWN CLEAN

Crown Clean it to include the following: (1) remove dead, broken or diseased limbs 2 inches in diameter or larger; (2) remove rubbing or crossing branches; (3) if two limbs (2-inches diameter or larger) originate within 12 inches of each other on the trunk, shorten or remove one of them. (4) Remove weakly attached branches along with suckers and some water sprouts. Do not remove all water sprouts and do not remove only interior branches.



Use directional pruning where possible to future growth is directed away from buildings and lights.

Although small-diameter limbs may occasionally be pruned to gain access into the tree, it will not be necessary to make cuts smaller than 2 inches in diameter, other than where branches may be shortened to accommodate clearance beneath the canopy.

Do not strip out the interior foliage leaving only live branches at the ends of branches.



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CROWN RAISE

Under-prune to increase ground clearance.

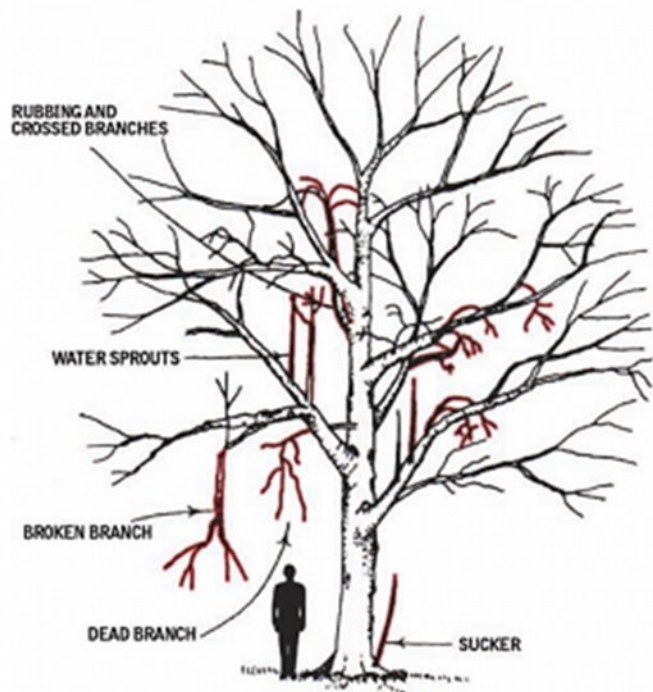
Many trees are over-pruned when the canopy is raised.

After proper crown raise, a good goal is to have foliage on branches in the upper two-thirds of the tree.

The live crown ratio should be at least 60%. Small-diameter branches left on the lower trunk for about a year, pruning would then help close pruning would and protect the tree by providing shade to that region.

They also help hide pruning wounds.

CROWN RAISE





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CROWN REDUCTION

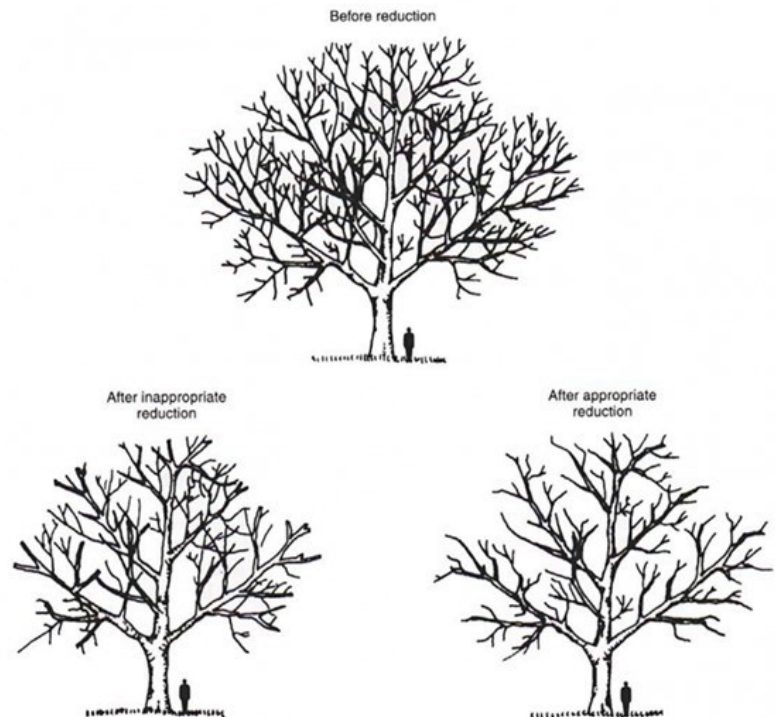
Prune to reduce both HEIGHT and SPREAD of the tree canopy using reduction cuts to an appropriate lateral.

Cut back appropriate laterals (nothing larger than one-third of the diameter of where the branch is attached) to reduce the height and/or width of a tree.

Include deadwood and standard clearance.

Canopy reduction makes a tree smaller by removing the end portion of branches with reduction cut.

Inappropriate reduction uses heading cuts and can result in more problems later.





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CROWN THINNING

Crown thinning is no longer considered “Best Practice” in the tree care industry pruning guidelines. Should the client request this type of pruning or the Arborist feels this technique is a good option, the definition is as follows:

Selectively remove limbs to increase light and air in the tree's canopy, and to reduce wind sail. Thinning shall be conducted by removing branches from the parent branch.

“Lions-tailing” shall not be performed. (Lion-tailing is the practice of removing only the inner branches closest to the trunk on a parent branch and leaving the branches located toward the end of the parent branch.)

Do not remove more than 30% of live foliage unless indicated otherwise.

Appropriate thinning removes small branches from the edge of the canopy .

Inappropriate thinning removes only interior and lower branches.

RISK REDUCTION PRUNING

Risk reduction pruning is mainly for larger and more mature trees when structural pruning is no longer an option.

The goal is to mitigate risk of branch failure in the tree by:

- Pruning to suppress the growth on branches where branch attachments or unions might be weaker.
- Reduce end weight on branches.
- Prune over-extended branches.
- Prune out the deadwood.



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Pruning Treatment Definitions

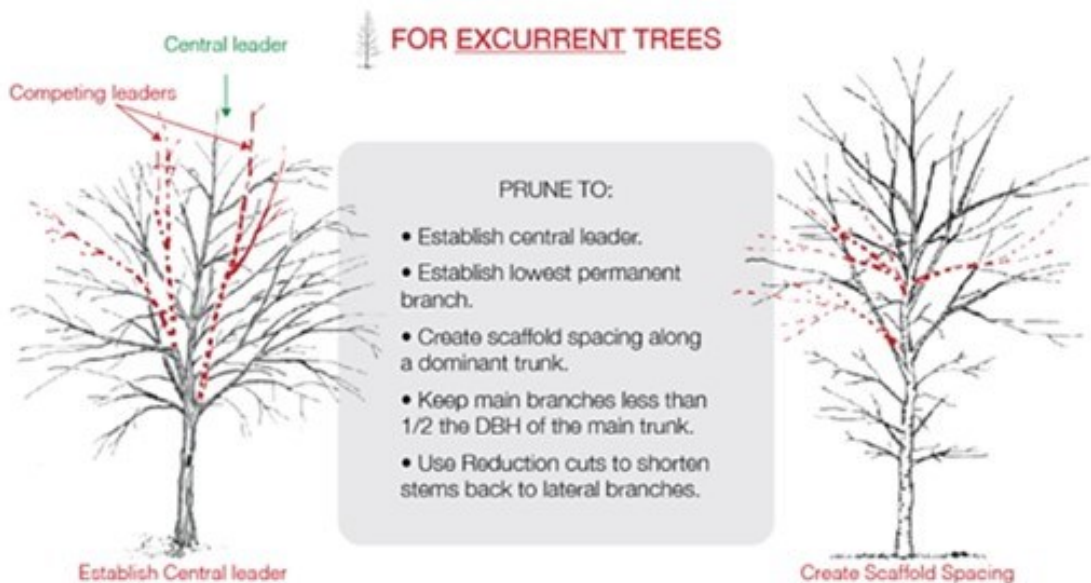
STRUCTURAL PRUNING

The structure of a tree can only be corrected in the younger stages of growth. If the tree is mature, then Risk Reduction pruning may be more appropriate.

The goal of structural pruning is to increase the structural integrity of a tree and encourage a healthier and more stable tree in the long-term.

For Excurrent Tree Structures:

- Establish a central leader and develop a strong dominant leader by shortening competing stems and branches that compete with the stem that will make the best trunk.
- Use reduction cuts to shorten stems back to later branches.
- Keep main branches less than one-half the DBH of the main trunk.





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For Decurrent Tree structures:

- Prune to create proper spacing between lateral branches to reduce future competition.



Co-dominant Leaders and Stems

Co-dominant leaders are considered to be two or more branches, trunks, or leaders of approximately the same size, originating in close proximity to one another.

Due to the recognized potential hazards associated with the co-dominant leaders, the subordination (shortening using a reduction cut) or removal of one side of a co-dominant leader is the primary objective. The main leader should not be subordinated, headed or removed.



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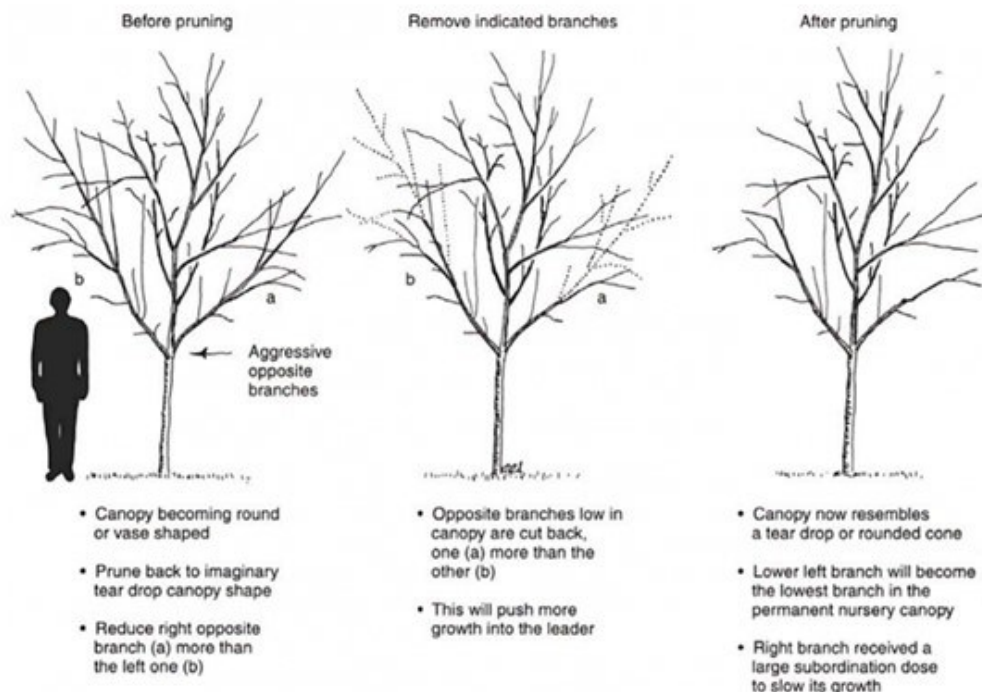
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YOUNG TREE TRAINING

Young tree training may arguably be the most important stage of pruning. It sets up the tree for a life-long growth structure.

Train young trees for good form and structure by developing a strong dominant leader. Shorten stems that compete with the leader using reduction cuts. Shorten vigorous, aggressive branches in the permanent nursery canopy using reduction cuts.

If two vigorous branches are growing opposite one another, shorten one (lower right branch 'a') more than the other (lower left branch 'b'). The one shortened the most will grow the slowest. The other one will become the one main branch at this point.





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Health And Structure Ratings

Note: In order for a tree to be category 5, it must possess all 3 conditions. In order for the tree to fall under categories 4-1, it only needs to satisfy 1 or more of that category's conditions.

5-Good:

- No visible defects in crown, trunk, roots.
- No signs of insects or disease

Canopy full and balanced

4-Fair:

- Minor defects in crown, trunk, roots
- >30% Bark missing from the trunk
- No signs of insects or disease

Canopy full and unbalanced

3-Poor:

- Unequal weight distribution due to trunk lean
- Full canopy lacking
- Trunk displays signs of wood deterioration
- Crown root area displays signs of wood deterioration
- Light insect and disease symptoms

Some dead limbs



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2-Very Poor:

- Trunk area decayed >30% of tree's x-section
- Decay in >30% of limb's x-sectional area
- Split trunk
- Canopy dieback and unbalanced
- Branch attachment area displays signs or symptoms of wood deterioration
- Extensive portions of root system cut or root rot
- Extensive insect and disease symptoms

1-Recommended Removal:

- Dead tree
- Crown root area decayed more than 30% of tree's cross-section
- More than 30% crown dieback
- High risk of limb or trunk failure