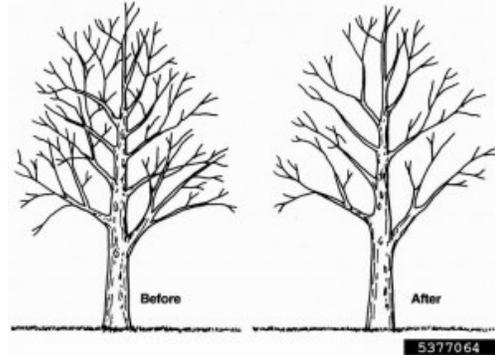


# Pruning Tips

1. It's what you leave that's important, not what you remove.
2. Make all cuts above a branch union or a bud that grows in the direction desired.
3. Never leave a stub.
4. Never "top" a tree. It results in rapid, weakened growth and "witches brooms".
5. When pruning large branches back to the trunk, leave the branch "collar" intact.
6. Light pruning results in light re-growth. Heavy pruning results in heavy re-growth.
7. Spring pruning produces more breaks and re-growth than summer pruning.
8. Prune spring-blooming shrubs right after blooming to encourage blossoming next year.
9. Use 10% solution of Clorox to sterilize pruners between plants, or even between every cut if fire blight or other disease is suspected. Rinse pruners to avoid corrosion.
10. Pruning and disease control go hand in hand. One should not be done without the other.
11. Prune apples and pears to modified central leader, stone fruits to open center.
12. Pruning sealers are not necessary but do help prevent entry of borers on roses.
13. Shear hedges slightly pyramidal to keep full to ground, never an inverted pyramid.



## Chronological Steps in the Pruning Process

1. Remove dead, broken, diseased branches.
2. Remove crisscrossing branches, water sprouts, and weak crotches.
3. Thin out as needed to encourage blossoming, increase air circulation.
4. Prune to shape and reduce size as necessary.

**Pruning Tools** – Sharp tools are safer for the user and healthier for the plant being pruned.

Hand Pruners- Depending on size, can be used for branches up to ¾" diameter.

Lopping Shears- Best for branches from about ¾" to 1¼" in diameter.

Pruning Saws- For branches larger than 1 ¼".

Revised 4/26/2011

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