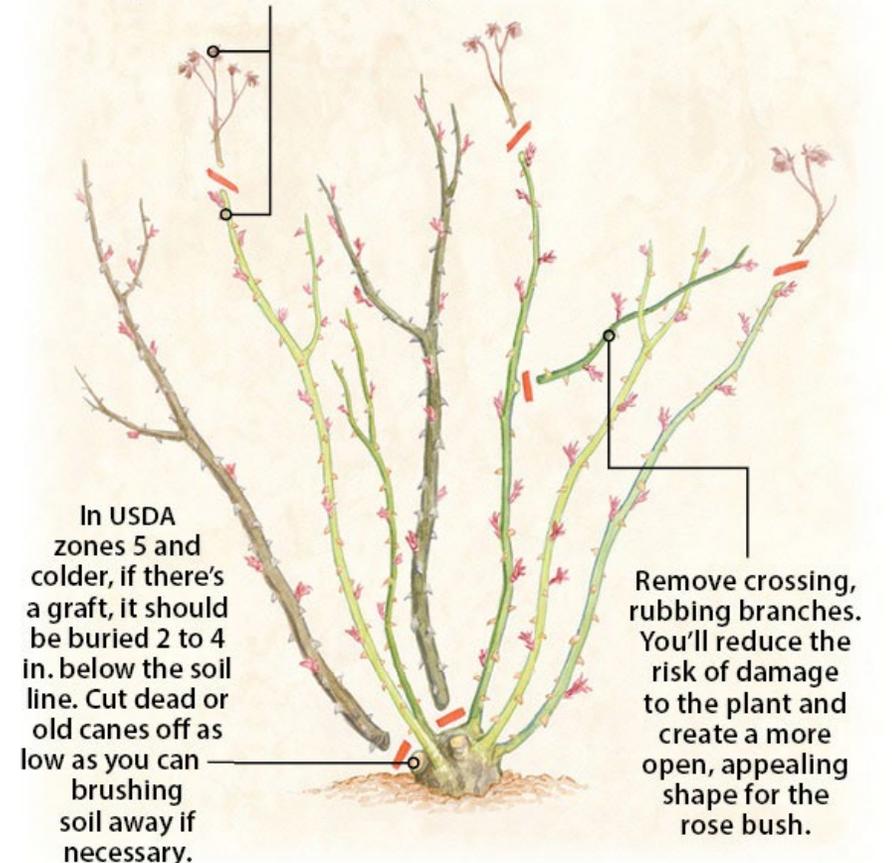


# Pruning Ornamental Trees, Shrubs and Roses

For good plant  
health, vigor and  
more beautiful  
blooms

Trim off any dry, blackened, winter-damaged growth at the end of the canes, looking for an outward-facing bud.



# Pruning Tools...

**Hands-** pinch out water sprouts  
as they grow- remove pests



**Hand Pruners** – 1/2”- 3/4” branches

-Bypass  
-Anvil  
(keep them  
Clean and sharp)



**Saw** – 2”+ large branches

**Chain Saw** – If you need  
this you have waited way too  
long.

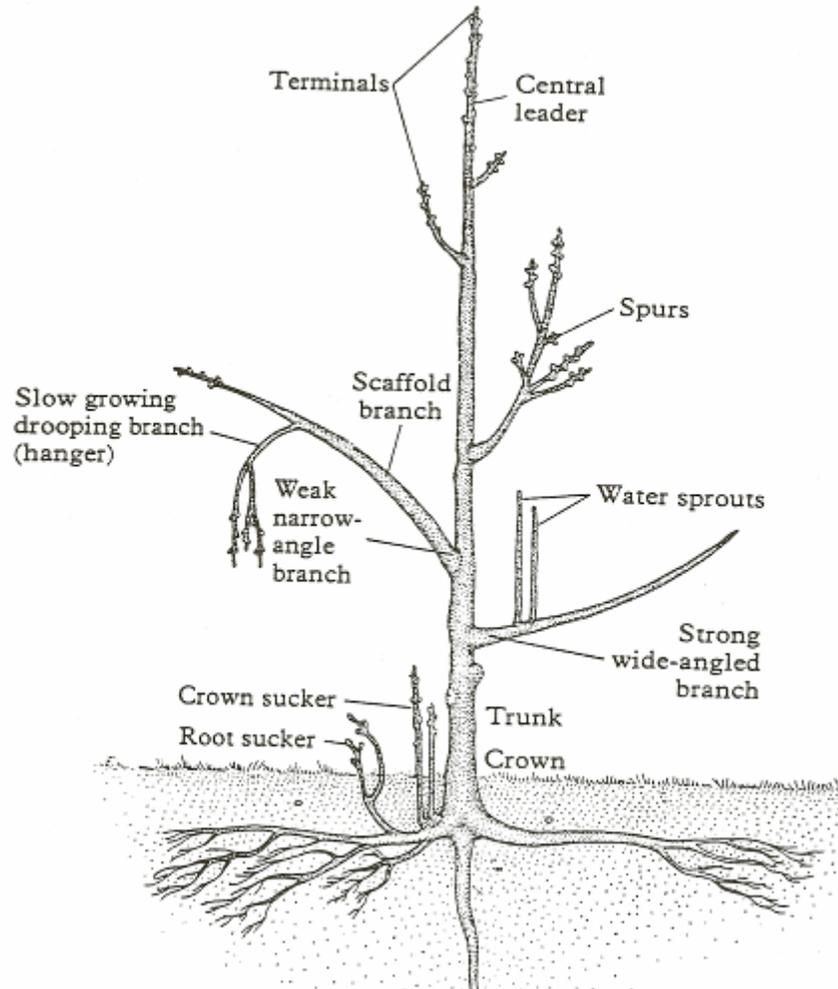


**Loppers** – 3/4” -1 1/2 ”branches



# Anatomy & Vocabulary

- Graft union
  - Scion
  - Rootstock
- Leader
- Suckers
- Water sprouts
- Spurs



Rootstock

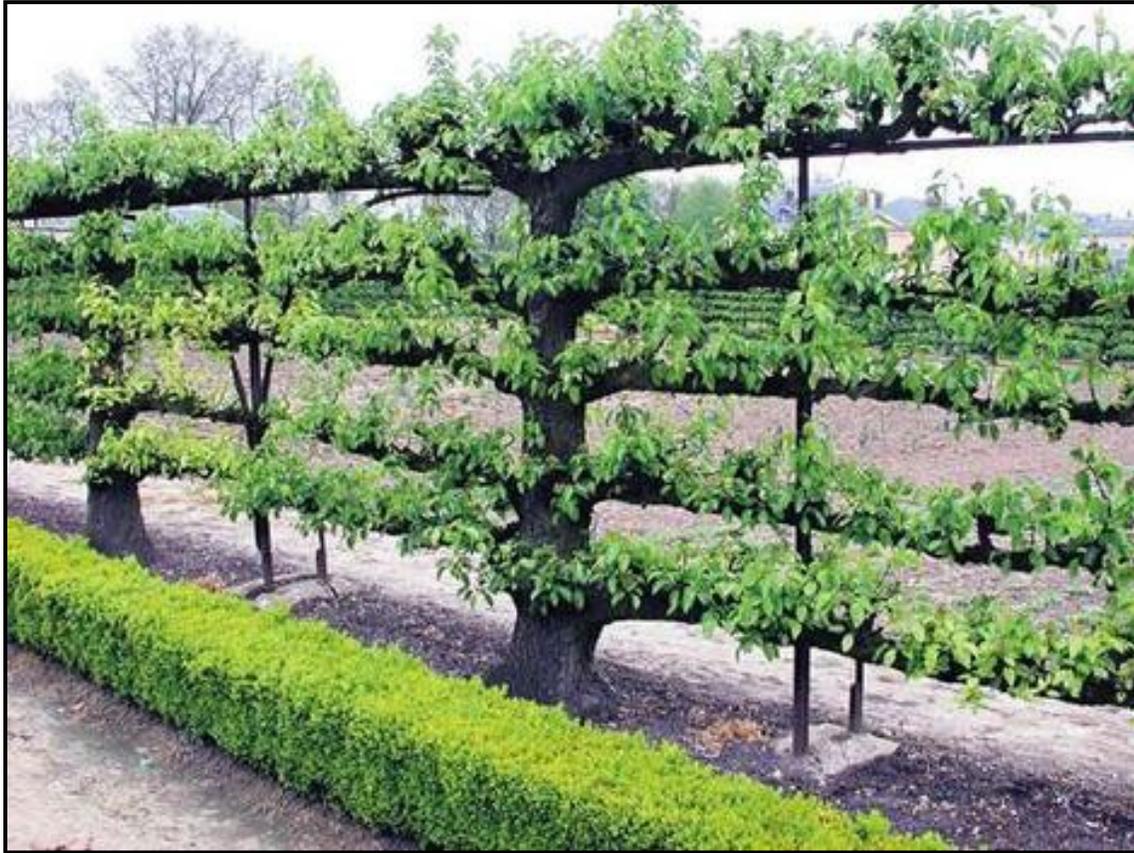
Scion

Graft union

Soil line



# Why Prune...?



## 1- Tree Health

- Remove Dead/Diseased Wood
- Improve Air Movement

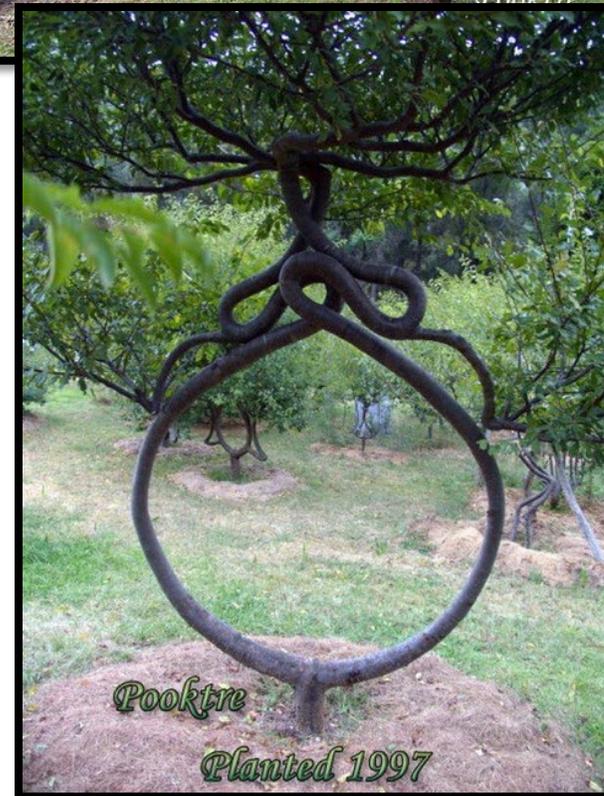
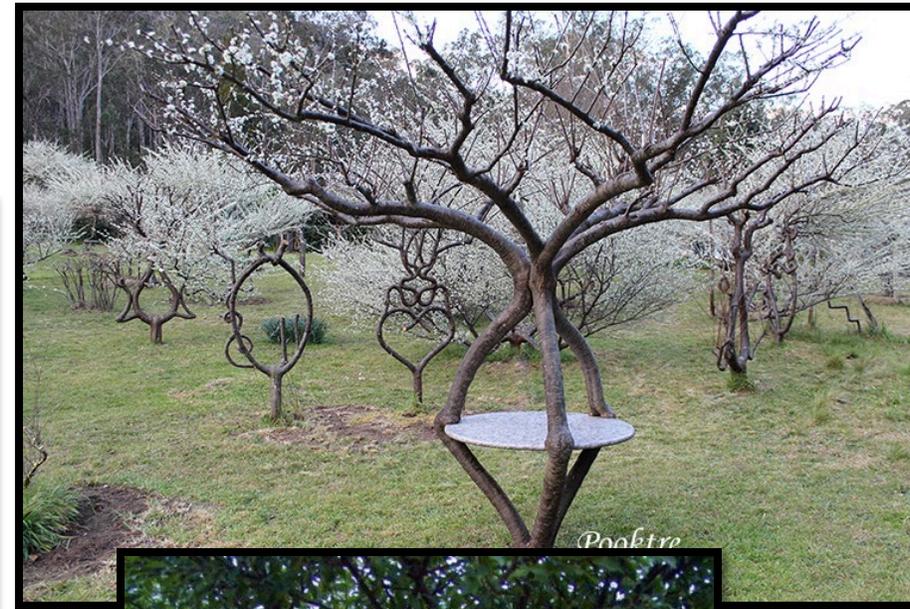
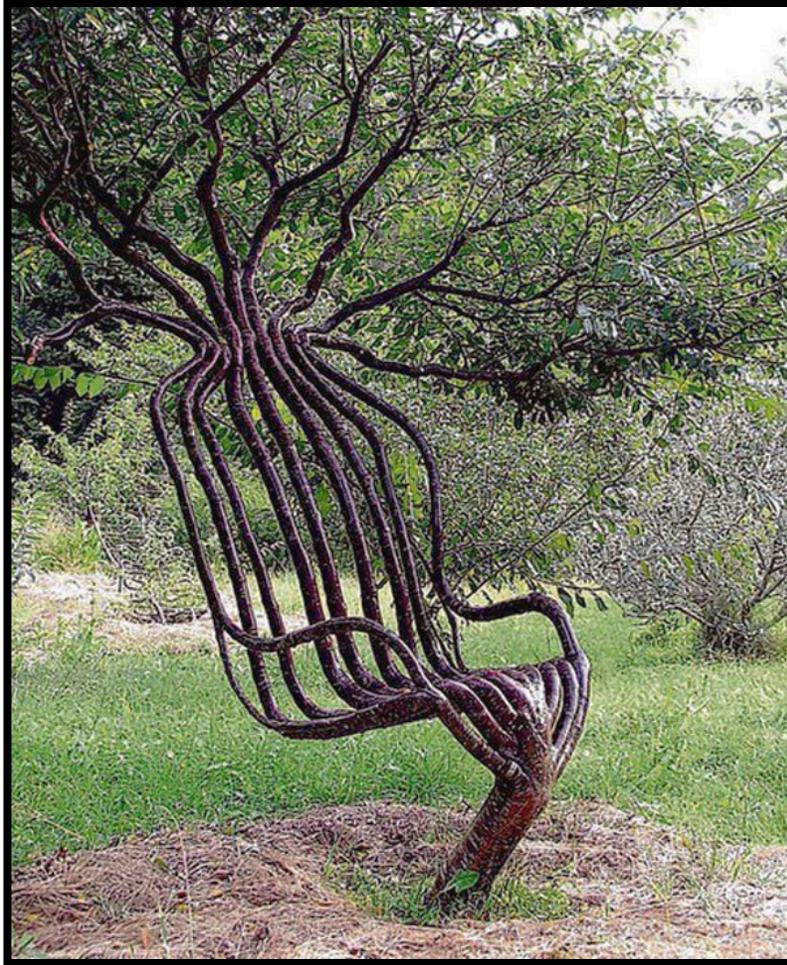
## 2- To Direct Growth

- Desired shape and form
- Renew Bloom/Vegetative Growth

## 3- To Create Best Environment For Fruit Production

- Light
- Harvesting
- Spurs/ fruiting wood

# Directing Growth



# Spreader, Clothes Pins and Ties

Important in young trees to spread branching new growth and get good strong scaffold branches as the tree is being shaped.

When trees are young they are easily trained to go where you want them.



# When to Prune...?

Dormant pruning: easy visualization, less disease risk, will stimulate growth

- Winter or early spring is the best time to prune.
- Prune during the dormant season. Any month that doesn't end in "r".
- Prune during summer to control excessive growth and water sprouts or to increase air circulation (No major pruning in summer)



# Prune Anytime...D-D-D



- Dead
- Diseased
- Dumb
  - hanging
  - crossing / erubbing
  - water-sprouts
  - suckers

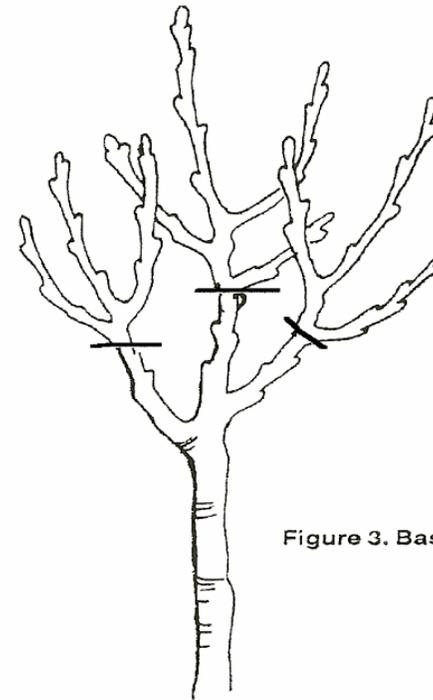
# Types of Pruning Cuts

## Heading Cuts

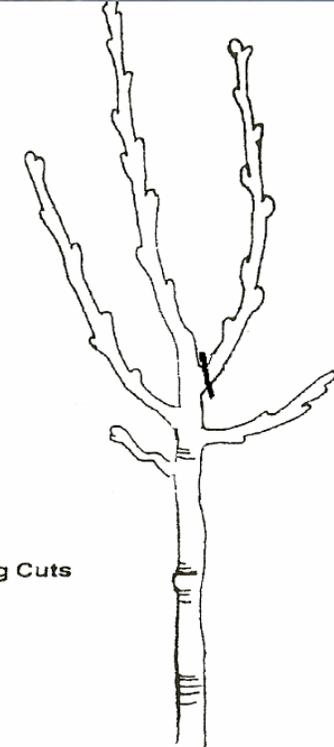
- Shortening a branch or shoot
- Encourages lateral growth
- Used for hedges

## Thinning Cuts

- Remove entire branch or shoot back to a lateral branch or trunk
- directs growth



a. heading back



b. thinning out

Figure 3. Basic Pruning Cuts

# Two Basic Pruning Cuts

## 1- Heading cuts

- “Iffy” language
- Done at internodes
- Forces lateral growth
- Topping (hat-racking)
- Shearing





# Two Basic Pruning Cuts

## 2- Thinning cuts

- “Nicer” language
- At the node
- Total branch removal
  - drop crotch
  - directional pruning



# Natural Target Pruning

Branch Bark Ridge



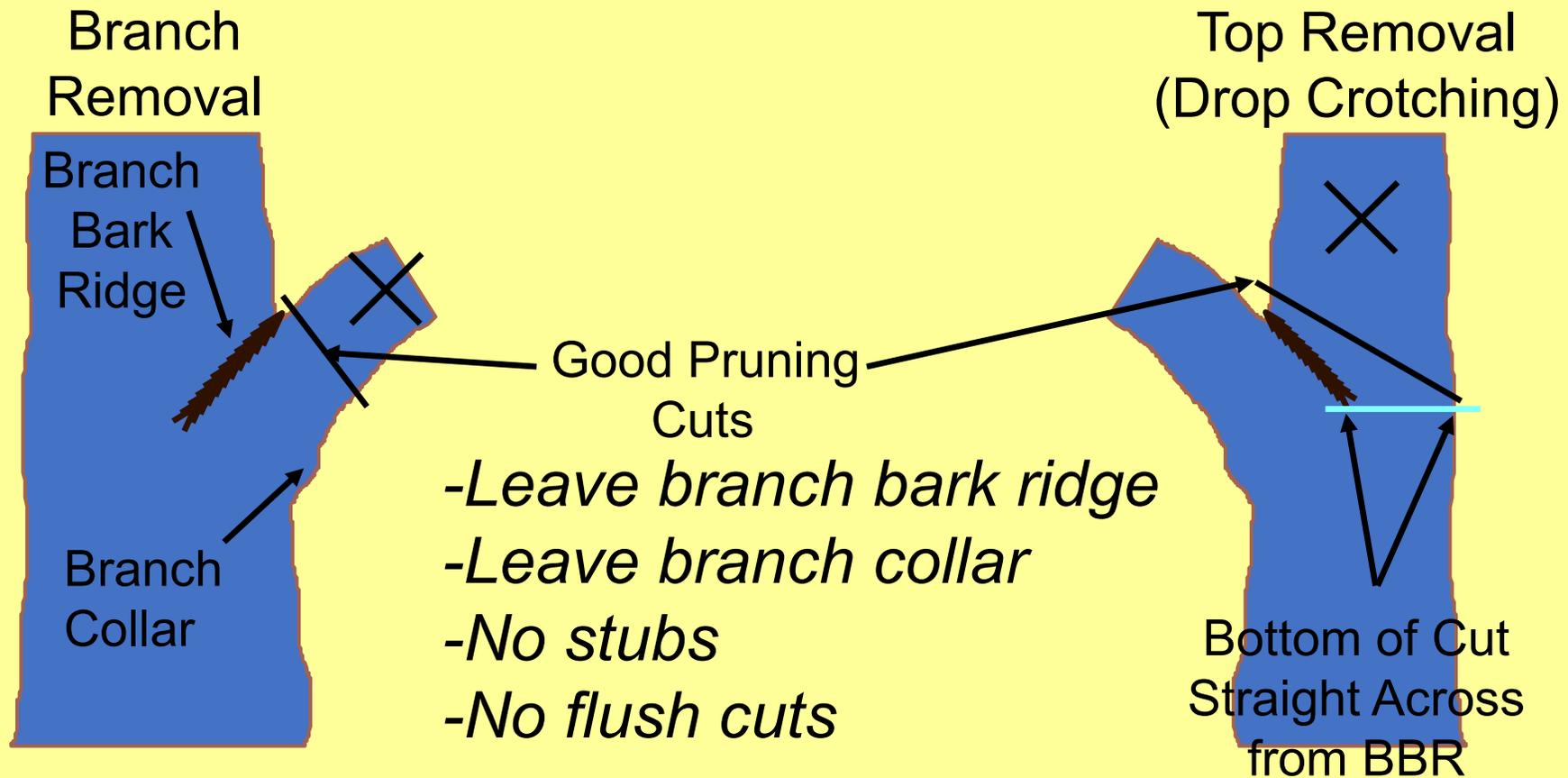
Branch Collar

Correct

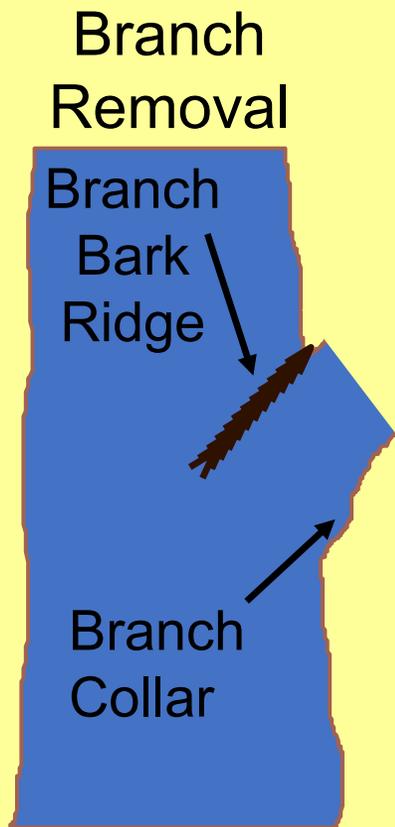
Incorrect



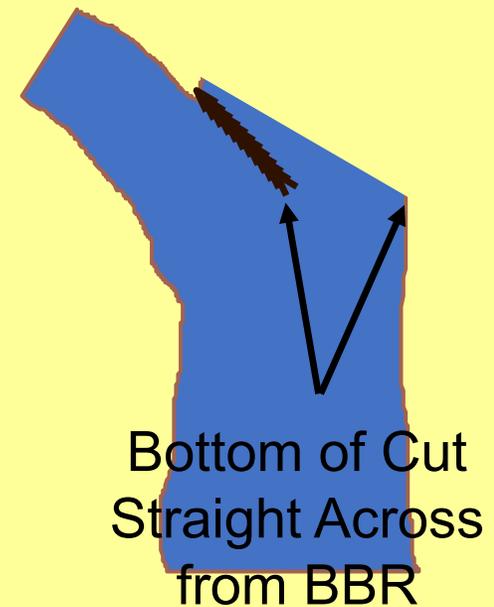
# Natural Target Pruning



# Natural Target Pruning



Top Removal  
(Drop Crotching)













# Pruning “Donuts”



# Pruning Don'ts



# Spring Blooming Shrubs



# Spring-Flowering Shrubs

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- Early-spring bloomers, such as lilac, forsythia, and rhododendron, flower on wood formed the previous year. The best time to prune them is late spring -- immediately after they finish blooming. Pruning later in the growing season or during winter, you'll remove flower buds and decrease the amount of spring bloom.
- Tip: To keep spring bloomers flowering vigorously, remove some of the oldest shoots all the way to the ground (thinning or heading cuts). This allows younger stems to grow and bloom.



# Summer-Blooming Shrubs

- Shrubs that bloom in summer, such as potentilla, butterfly bush, some spirea, Rose of Sharon, etc, produce their flowers on new growth from the current season. Prune them in winter while they're dormant, or in early spring just before they push out their new growth. You can even cut them all the way to the ground in late winter, and they'll still bloom that same summer.



# Shrubs Without Showy Blooms

- Cut back shrubs grown primarily for their foliage, such as barberry, burning bush, dogwood, etc., almost anytime except in late autumn. New growth that starts after late-season pruning won't harden off properly before winter. If you want to do major pruning, it's best to cut the shrub back when it is dormant in winter.
- Dogwood, Boxwood, Sumac, Weigela, Euonymus, Ninebark, Mt. Mahogany, Privet, etc.



# Clipped Hedges

- Shrubs such as boxwood and privet are often sheared to form a hedge. To maintain a solid wall of green, shear the new growth frequently during the early part of the growing season. Keep the top narrower than the base so that the upper branches don't shade the lower ones. Stop shearing the hedge approximately six weeks before your area's average first frost.
- **Tip:** If you're growing a privacy hedge, reduce the amount of pruning maintenance needed by selecting shrubs that grow only as tall and wide as necessary to provide screening. Allow them to grow into their natural form, and little, if any, pruning will be required.
- Others: Forsythia, spirea, weigela, burning bush, tall hedge buckthorn, boxwoods, arborvitae



# Broadleaf Evergreens

- Most broadleaf evergreens, including Holly, Mahonia, and some types of Magnolias, Kinnickinick, Boxwood, Photinia, etc. need little pruning. The best time to prune them is in early spring, just before they put on their growth spurt. You can do minor shaping and pruning at other times of year, too.
- **Tip:** Save on holiday decorations by snipping a few branches for winter holiday greenery.



# Needle-Leaf Evergreens

- Most trees and shrubs with needlelike or scalelike foliage (Spruce, Juniper, Cypress, Arborvitae, Fir, Yew, Douglas Fir, and False Cypress) are best pruned early in the growing season.
- Avoid cutting back into wood that has no green needles; it may not sprout new growth. As with broadleaf evergreens, you can trim a few branch tips in midwinter to take some greenery indoors.



Balsam Fir



Fraser Fir



Grand Fir



East Himalayan Fir



West Himalayan Fir



Korean Fir



Noble Fir



Red Fir



Silver Fir



Spanish Fir



Subalpine Fir



White Fir



Nordmann Fir



Douglas Fir



Pacific Silver Fir



Siberian Fir



Sacred/Oyamel Fir



Sicilian Fir

# Pines

- True pines are more particular about their pruning needs than other needle-leaf evergreens. Pines form buds only at branch tips before the stem becomes woody.
- For best results, prune pines only in the [candle](#) stage -- before the new shoots turn woody and before the needles have fully expanded. Prune only a portion of the new growth, removing up to half of the expanding candle.



# Types of Roses

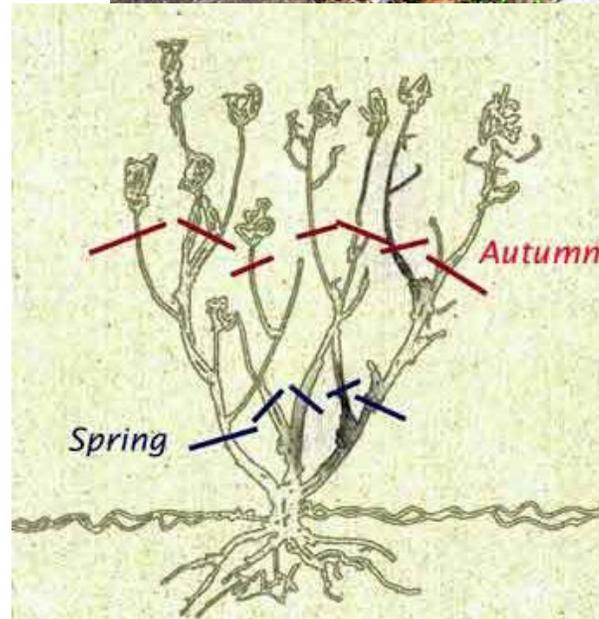
- **Hybrid Tea-** Large blooms on long stems, to create beautiful displays. Thousands of hybrid varieties, and one of the most popular classes of roses.
- **Grandiflora-** Subgroup of hybrid teas with elegant blooms that appear in clusters and a constant growth cycle like floribundas. 3-5 blooms per cluster and generally a larger and taller bush than hybrid tea. Great choice for backyard gardeners.
- **Floribuda-** A favorite for many reasons. Large clusters of flowers with continuous blooms that will last much longer than the hybrid tea or grandifloras. They are much easier to care for and provide the great color and show you want. Not as much pruning is typically needed.
- **Polyantha-** Similar to floribundas but shorter plant with smaller blooms. This group can have clusters of flowers from spring to fall with a full range of color choices. Hardy rose with good disease resistance and low maintenance. They fit in smaller spaces in your landscape.
- **Climbing-** They are not a class, but a description. There are grandiflora and floribunda climbers. Sometimes called ramblers because they are not vine like in attaching to structures. They can be trained with supports and tend to produce more flowers when grown horizontally rather than vertically.
- **Miniatures-** A form of the hybrid tea and grandiflora that are very compact (15-30 inches tall). They would be treated like hybrid tea and grandiflora only they are smaller in scale and smaller blooms.
- **Bush/Shrub-** These tend to sprawl wide and large and can get to 15 ft tall if you let them. Very hardy and produce blooms in clusters. There are many subcategories of bush roses.
- **Wild-** They lack any cross breeding history of modern roses. They typically have a single bloom with a five petal flower. They are almost always pink. A yellow wild rose is very rare, as is white or red. Usually very thorny. Not every thorny rose is a true wild rose.

# New Rose Bushes



# Rose Pruning Basics

- Equipment:
  - Gloves and heavy long sleeves
  - Bypass hand pruners
  - Maybe loppers for larger bushes
- Two seasons to prune:
  - Winter (dormant around March)
  - Summer
- Primary reasons to prune:
  - Stimulate new spring growth (dormant pruning)
  - To remove spent flowers (summer pruning)



# Pruning Roses

- Produce blooms on current seasons growth
- Need annual pruning
- Feb.- Mar. before buds swell
- Leave 3-5 canes, 12-18" – depending on rose type
- Dead-heading – removing spent flowers, cut to the 1<sup>st</sup> 5 leaflet.

Floribundas and miniatures don't need to be pruned as heavily as Hybrid T's.



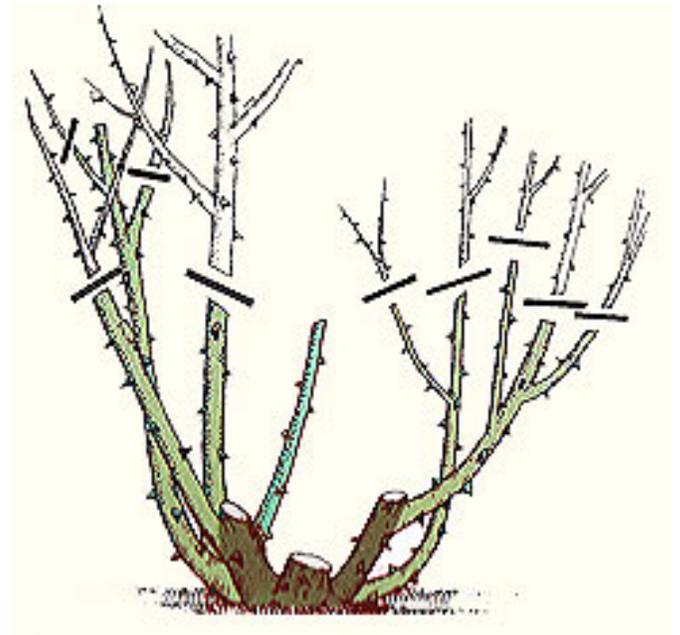
# Types of cuts

## Heading cuts

- Removing a portion of the cane
- Always cut above a bud eye
- Always slant the cut away from the bud
- Promotes new growth from remaining buds

## Thinning cuts

- Used to remove a whole cane to the point of origin
- Used to remove diseased or unwanted canes
- No re-growth



Right Cut  
45 degree

Wrong Cuts

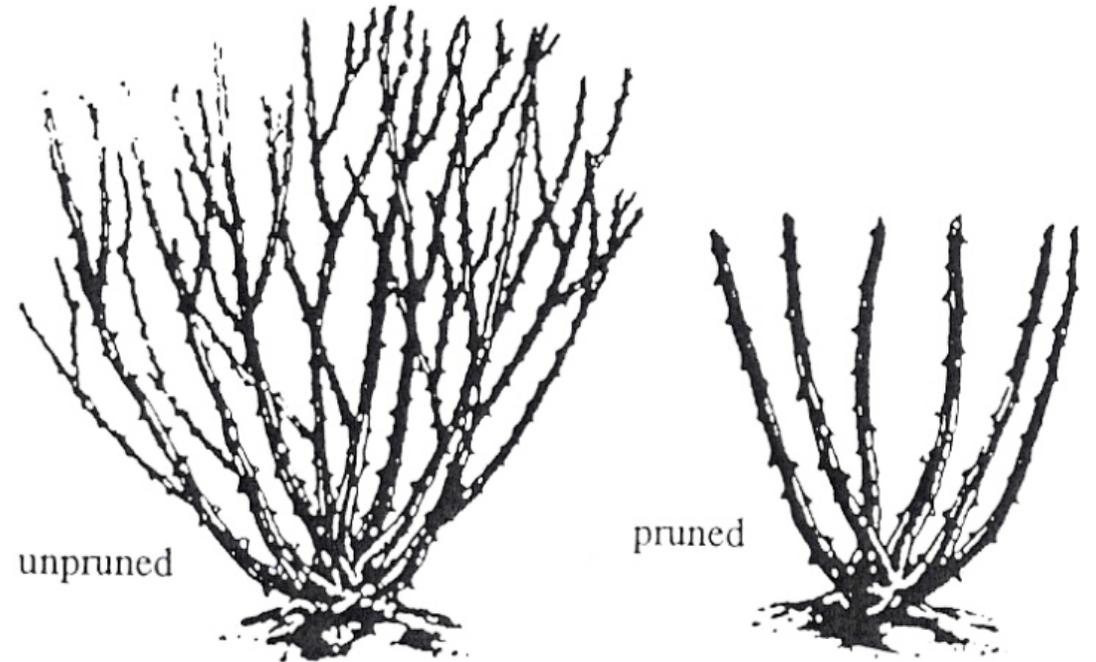
# Dormant or Winter Pruning

- Prune before buds begin to swell
  - March- April (you don't want really cold periods after pruning)
- Remove:
  - Dead wood
  - Diseased or damaged wood
  - Dumb canes (crossing, rubbing)
  - Old, upright, unproductive canes



# Dormant or Winter Pruning

- Remove 1/3 to 1/2 of the previous season's growth on the canes
- You will leave 5-12 canes about 18-24 inches tall
- Remove suckers below the graft union
- Try to keep the center of the plant open to promote air circulation



# 10 Principles of Rose Pruning

## 1. Prune from the ground up

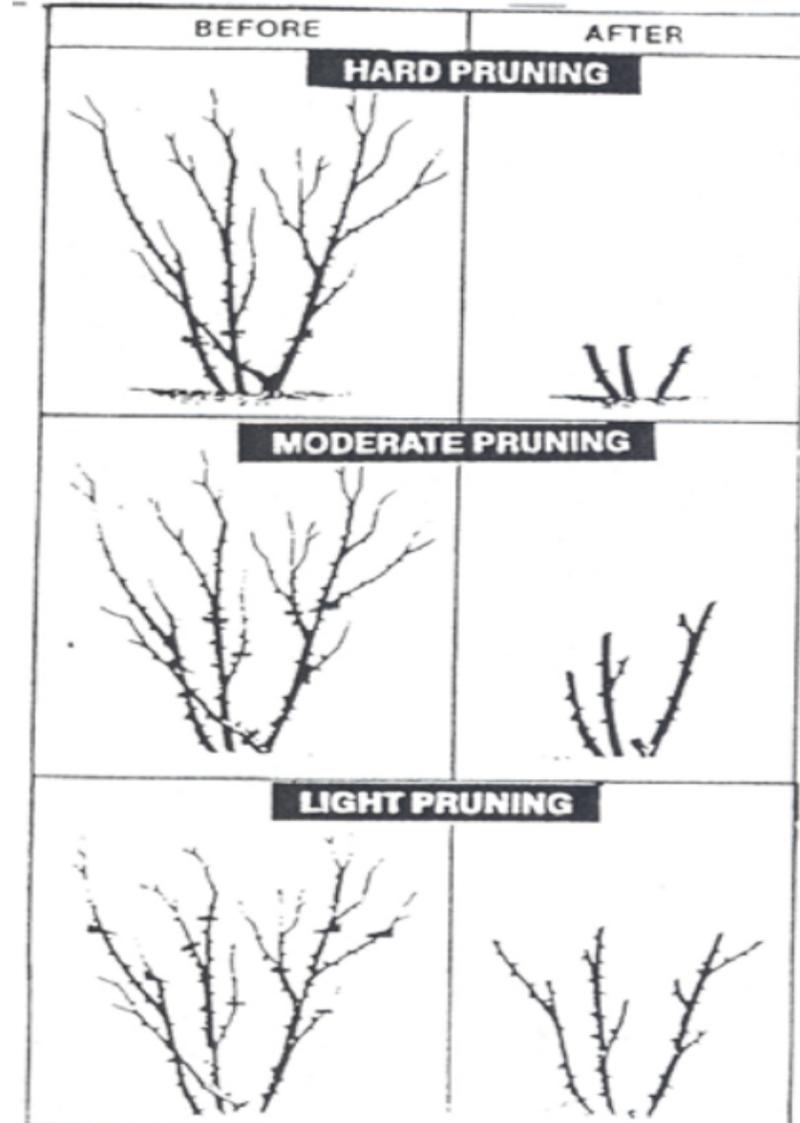
- Pruning from above wastes time
- The stuff up top is last year's history!

## 2. If it's too old to cut ,CUT IT!

- Newest canes are the greenest
- Remove old growth with thinning cuts as low as possible

## 3. If it's in the way, get rid of it!

- Think the three D's (Dead, Diseased, Dumb)



4. Height is as easy as 1-2-3

- You will remove at least a third (with the exception of climbers)

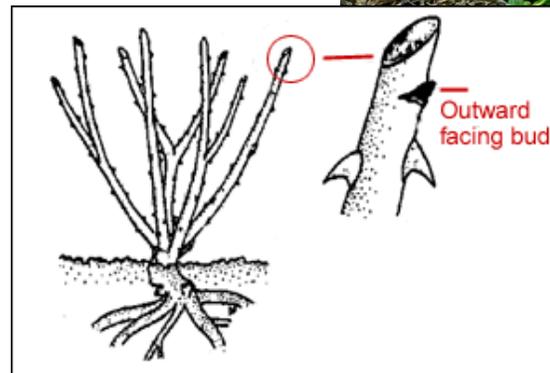
5. This bud's for you...

- Try to cut to an outward facing bud

6. When in doubt, cut it out!

- Roses are hardy and will regrow

7. Sealing isn't necessary



## 8. Strip those leaves!

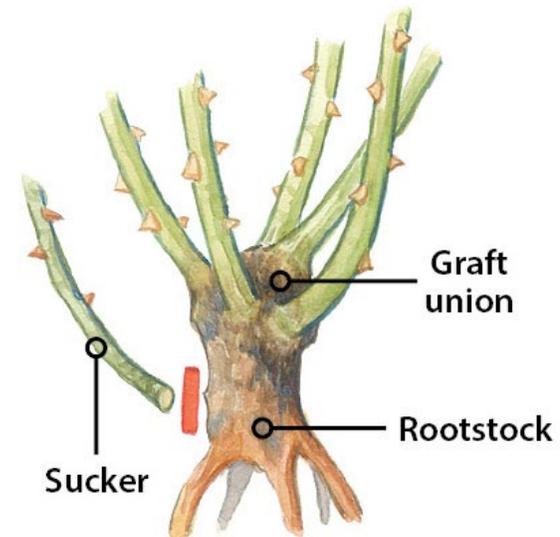
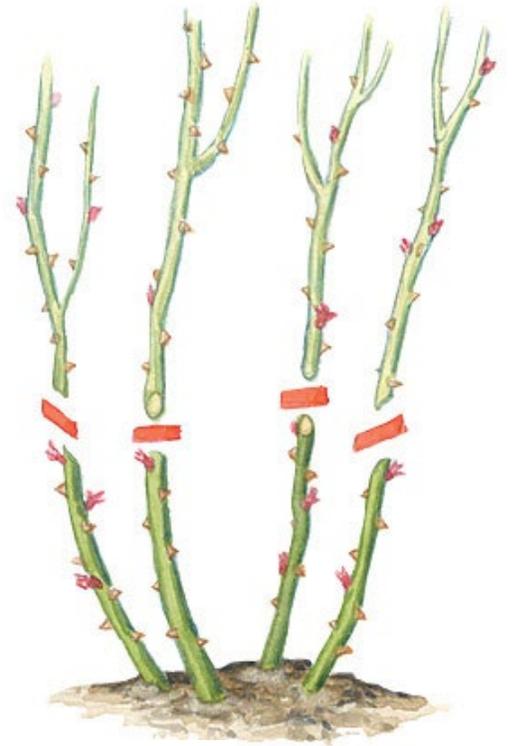
- Leftover foliage can harbor pathogens

## 9. Clean up

- After pruning, clean up, and toss
- Lack of sanitation can lead to pest problems

## 10. Don't sweat it

- You might make mistakes... it's okay!
- Roses are tough
- As long as you leave 1/2 to 2/3 of the plant, it will regrow.
- For Hybrid Teas the shorter you cut them the larger the bloom but fewer flowers.



# Cultivar Specific Pruning

- Hybrid tea and grandiflora roses:
- Leave 5-8 canes, more on older, well-established plants
- Cut back to 18-24-inches high
- Cut back new canes by 1/3



# Cultivar Specific Pruning

## *Floribunda*

### Floribunda

- Leave all the canes the plant has produced
- Cut back previous season's growth by 1/4
- Can be pruned to a hedge



# Cultivar Specific Pruning

## *Climbing Roses*

### *Climbing Roses*

- Leave main canes for height
- Cut back the lateral branches to short 4 to 6-inch stubs
- Secure main canes to trellis
- If they bloom once per year, treat like other spring blooming shrubs.



# Do I Need to Seal Cuts?

- No!!
- Sealing cut can promote disease
- Roses pruned in the dormant season will self-seal
- The only time sealing cuts is recommended is with boring insect problems



# Summer Pruning

- Dead head flowers down to the next leaf with five leaflets
- Cut canes above a bud, slanting away from the bud
- Slant keeps water from sitting on the cane
- Never do your major pruning in the summer. This is always light pruning on the top.

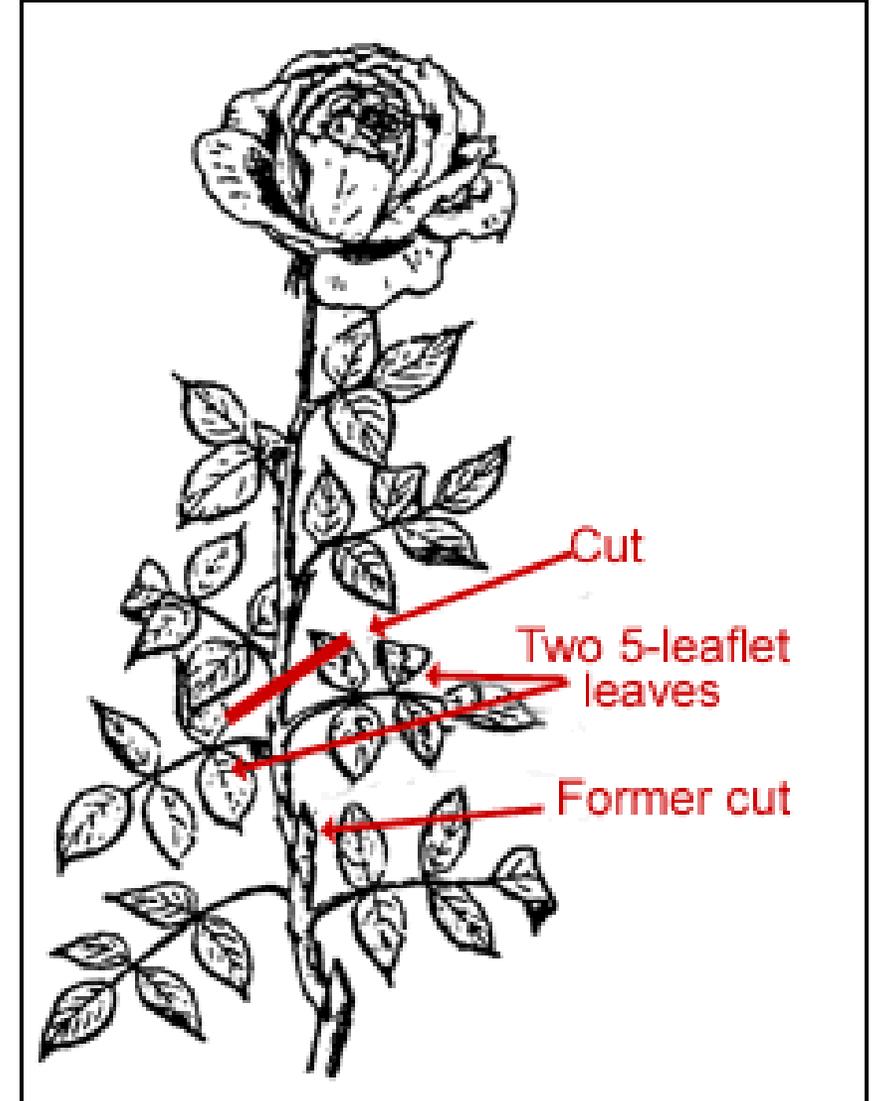


Image: University of Illinois Extension

# Resources for Roses

- Jackson and Perkins

[www.jacksonandperkins.com](http://www.jacksonandperkins.com)

- Weeks Roses

[www.weeksroses.com](http://www.weeksroses.com)