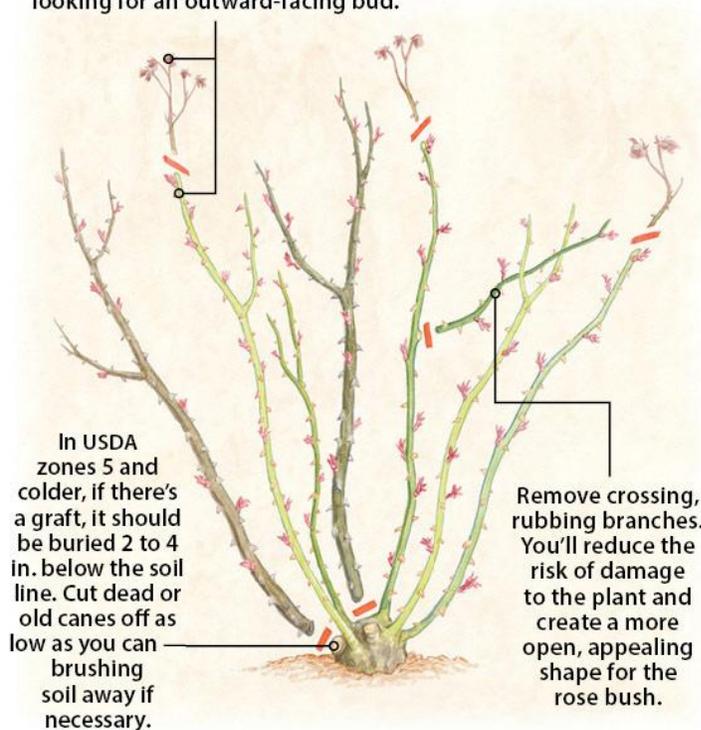


Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs

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.



In USDA zones 5 and colder, if there's a graft, it should be buried 2 to 4 in. below the soil line. Cut dead or old canes off as low as you can brushing soil away if necessary.

Remove crossing, rubbing branches. You'll reduce the risk of damage to the plant and create a more open, appealing shape for the rose bush.

Hand Pruners

- ONLY USE BYPASS PRUNERS!!!
- Good for smaller branches and stems. Up to ¾”
- Keep them sharp, clean and adjusted.



Loppers

- ONLY USE BYPASS LOPPERS!!!
- Compound loppers are gimmicky
- Good for medium branches and for reaching. $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1-1/2"
- Keep them sharp, clean and adjusted.



Hand saws

- Best tool in the toolbox
- Make sure to know if saw is pull-action only
- Good for every size branch
- Keep clean.

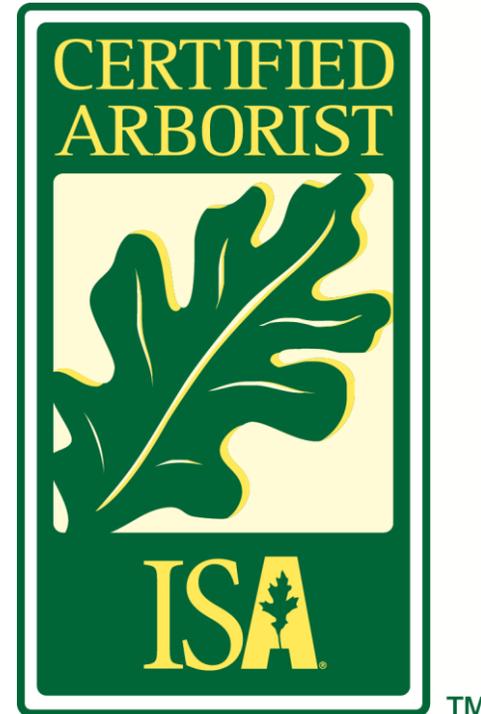


Pole Pruners

- ONLY USE BYPASS PRUNERS!!!
- Used to reach into interior of tree.
- Good for medium branches and for reaching. $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1-1/2"
- Keep them sharp, clean and adjusted.



If this is you, call a certified arborist



TM

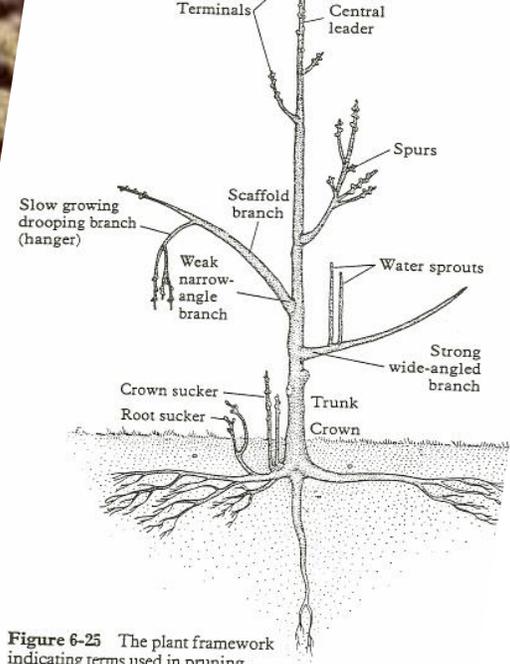
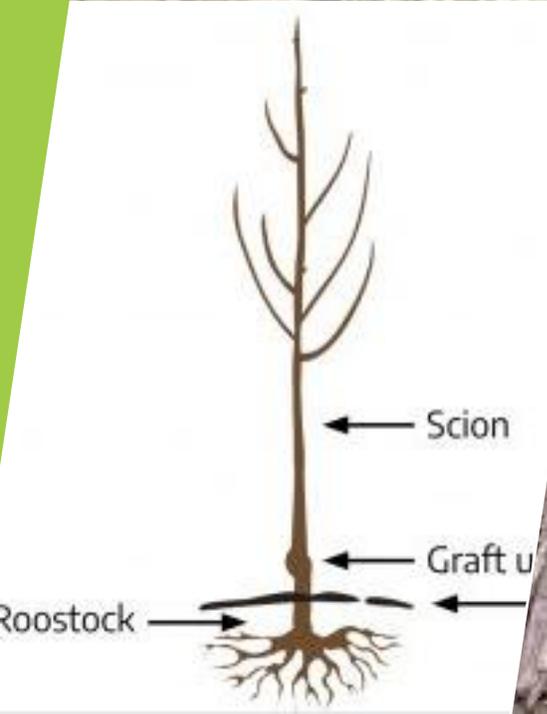


Figure 6-25 The plant framework indicating terms used in pruning.

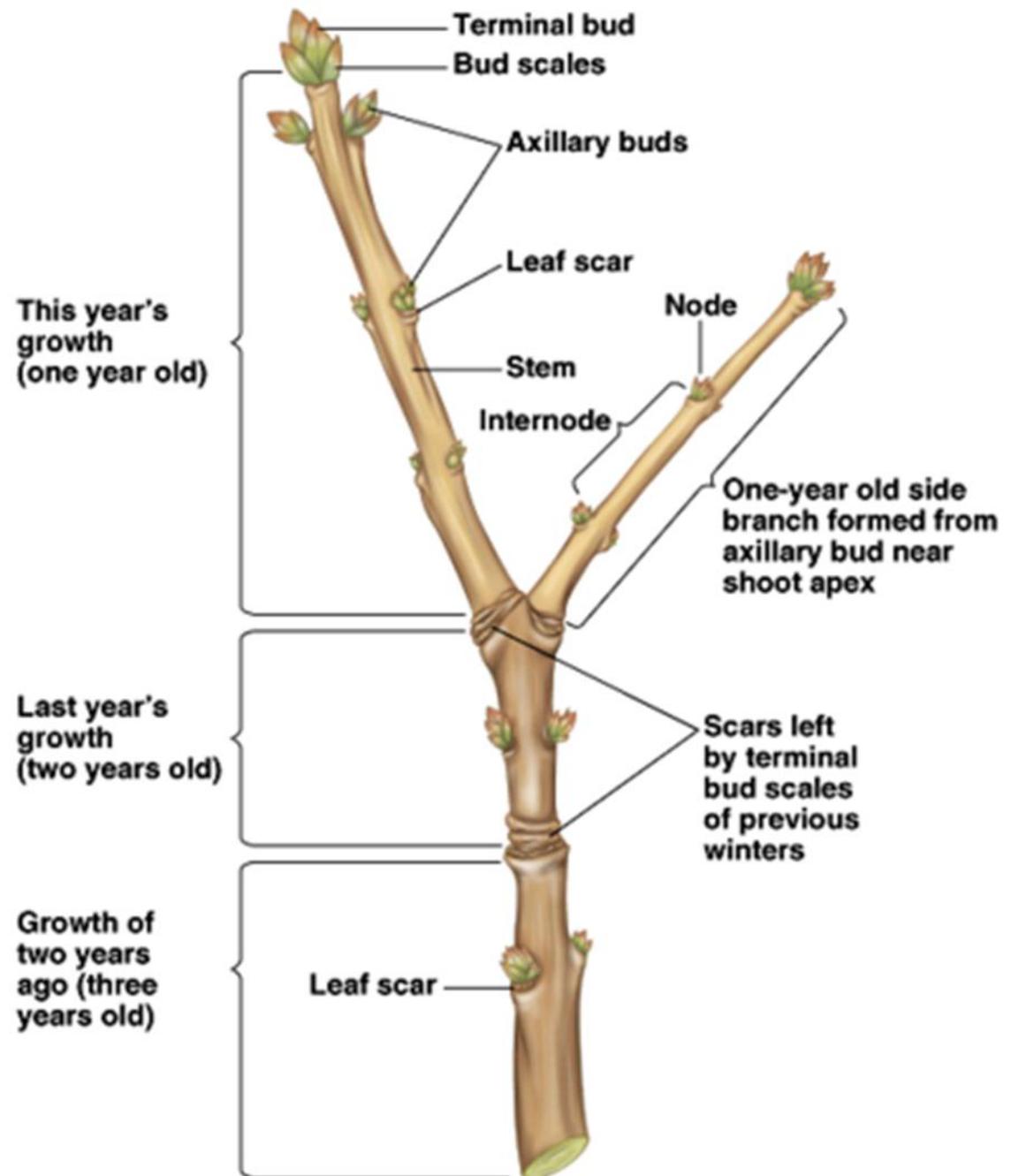
Anatomy & Vocabulary

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



Bud & Growth

- ▶ **Bud** - A small growth point that becomes a leaf, flower, or branch.
- ▶ **Terminal Bud** - The bud at the tip of a branch that controls upward growth.
- ▶ **Lateral Bud** - A bud along the side of a branch that creates side growth.
- ▶ **Node** - The point on a stem where buds, leaves, or branches form.
- ▶ **Internode** - The space between two nodes.



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**



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 / rubbing
 - ▶ water-sprouts
 - ▶ suckers

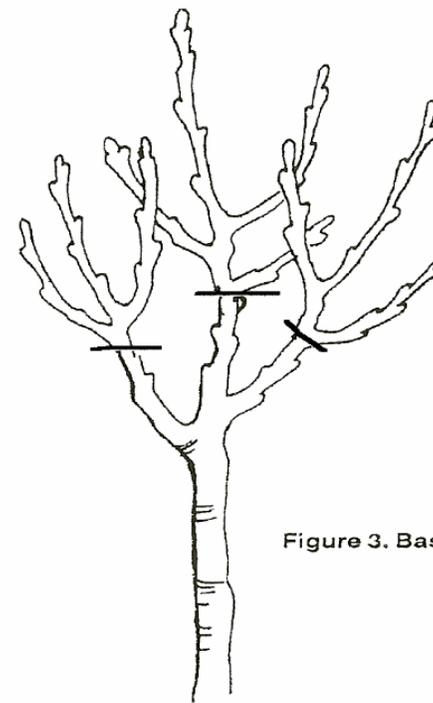
Types of Pruning Cuts

Heading Cuts

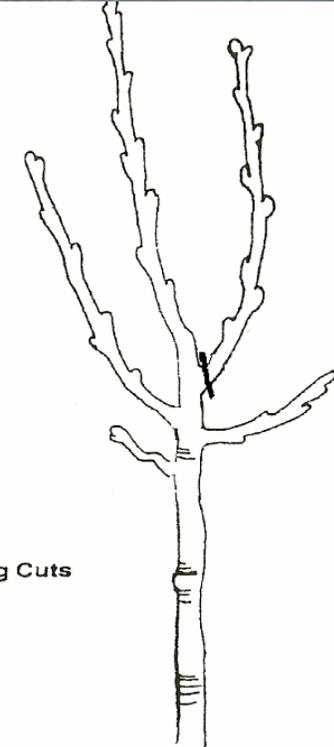
- ▶ Shortening a branch or shoot
- ▶ Encourages lateral growth
- ▶ Used for hedges

Thinning Cuts

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



a. heading back

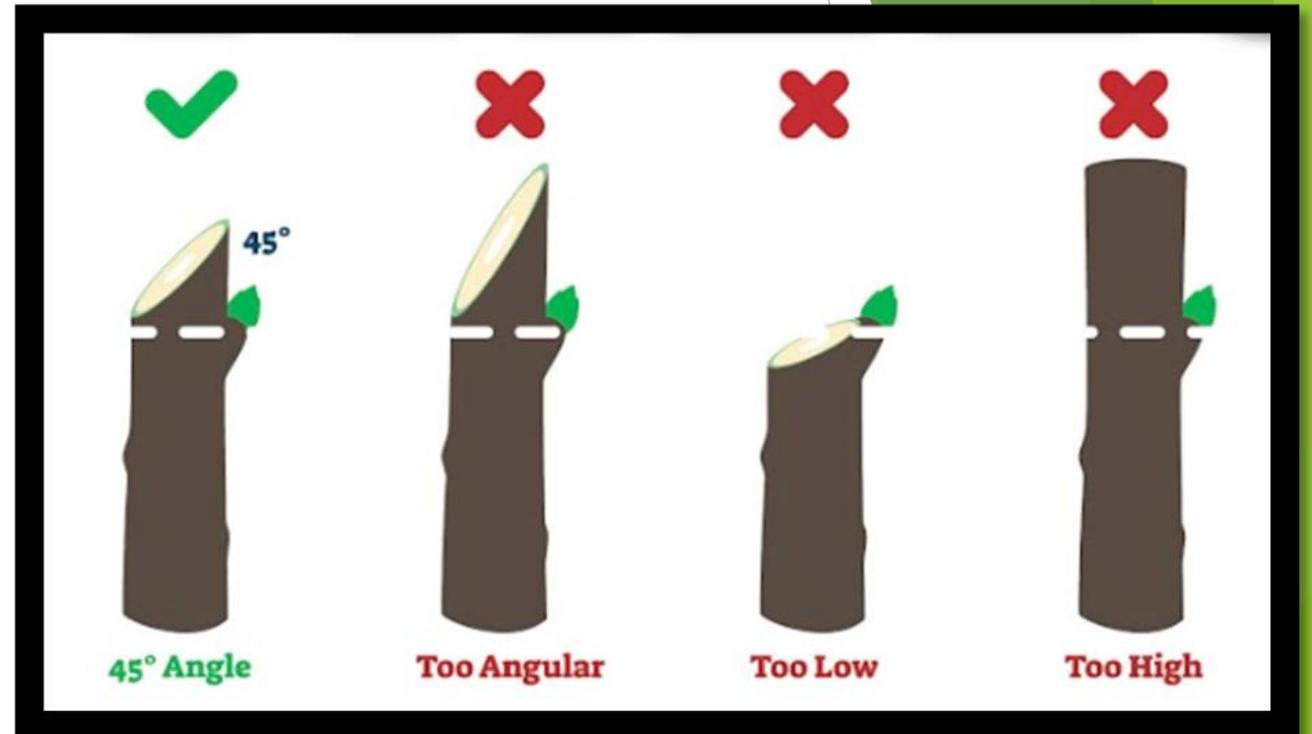


b. thinning out

Figure 3. Basic Pruning Cuts

Proper Pruning Cuts

- Cut at an angle just *above* a bud
- Avoid damaging the bud
- Do not leave a stump
 - Stumps become deadwood and can weaken the branch
- Keep cuts *clean*
 - *Make sure your pruners are clean and sharpened*
 - *Make practice cuts first*
- Sanitize pruners between cuts
 - Reduces the potential of disease spreading



Two Basic Pruning Cuts

1- Heading cuts

- Done at internodes
- Forces lateral growth
- Topping (hat-racking)
- Shearing





Two Basic Pruning Cuts

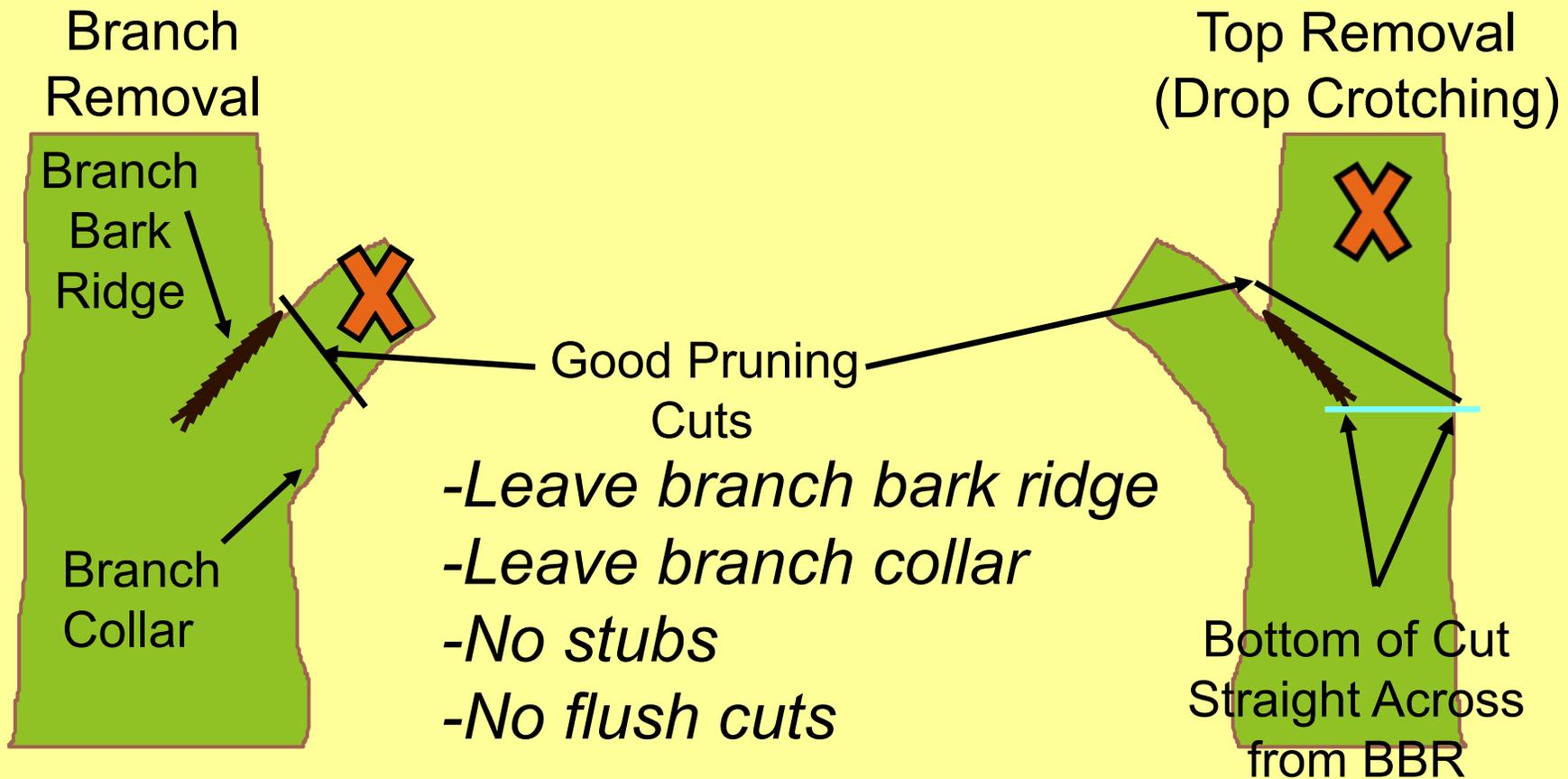
2- Thinning cuts

- At the node
- Total branch removal
- drop crotch
- directional pruning

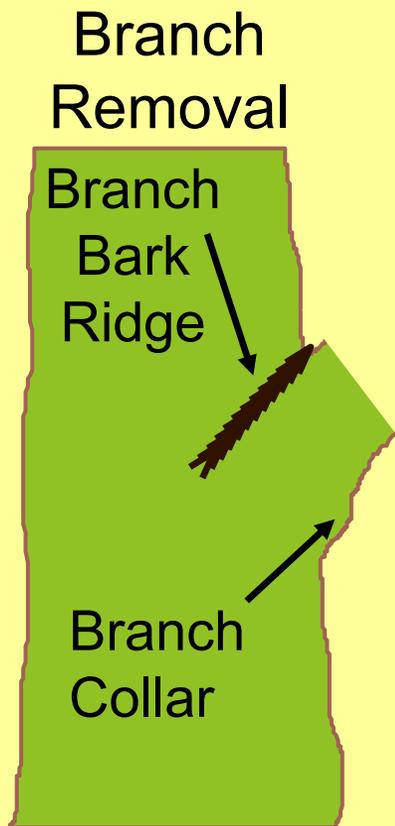




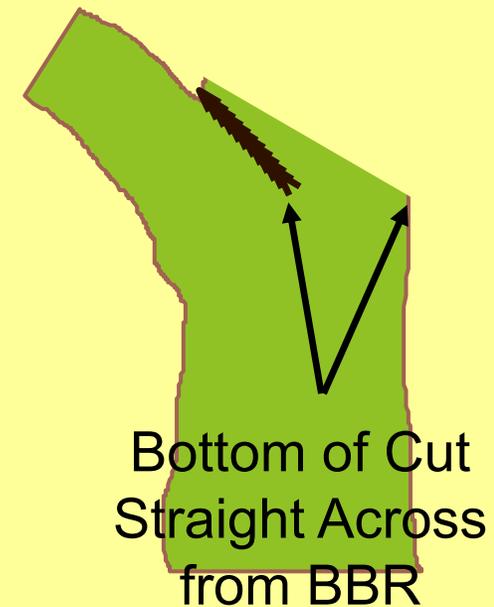
Natural Target Pruning



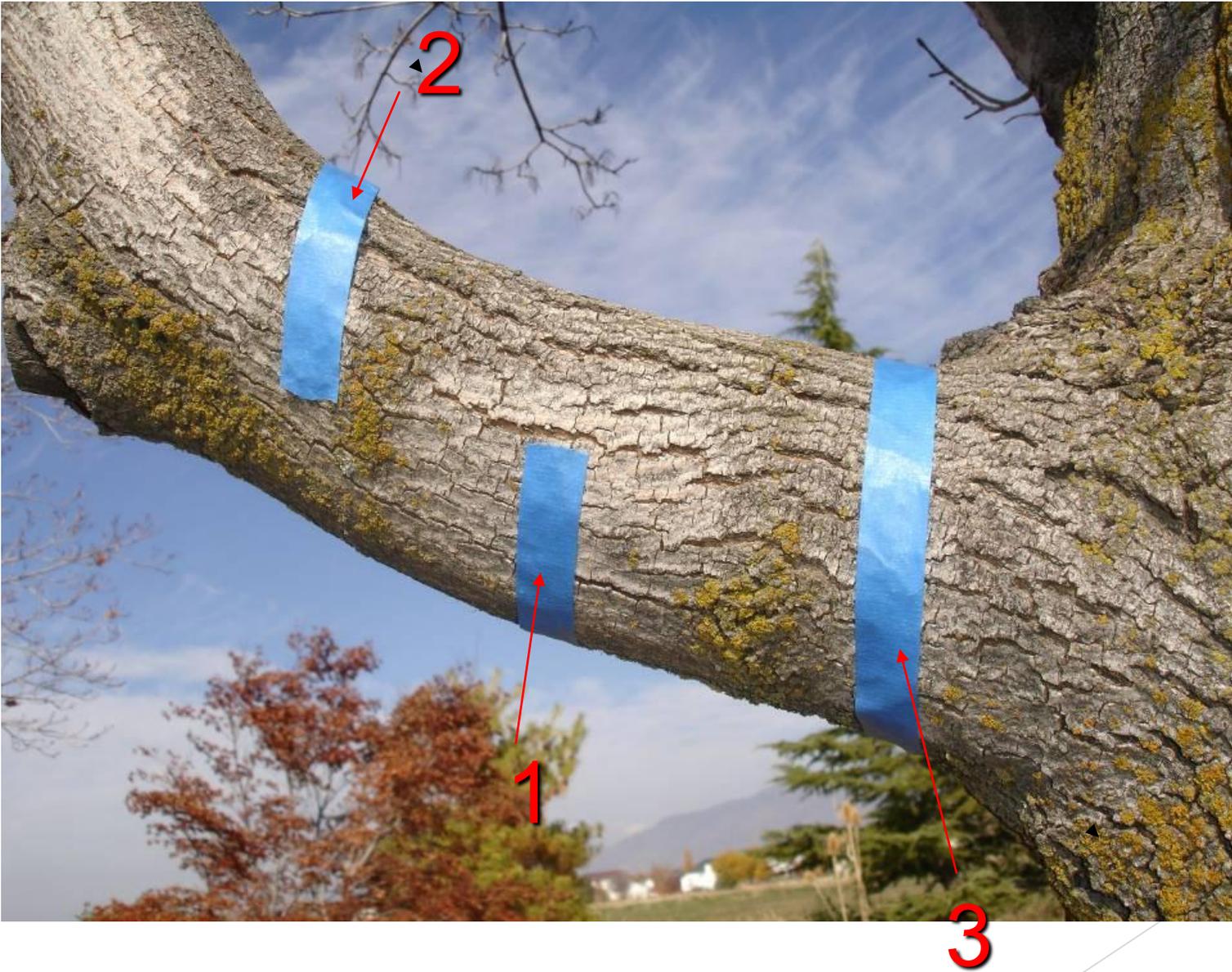
Natural Target Pruning



Top Removal
(Drop Crotching)



Large Branch Pruning







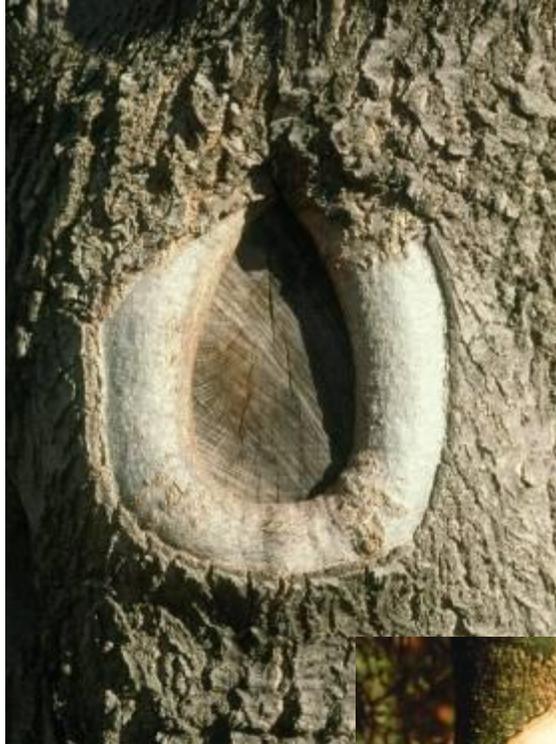






Pruning “Donuts”

Pruning Don'ts



Example:

Pruning Shrubs? What is the best tool to use?



Image: NBC's The Office

Also not acceptable...



Value in keeping plants looking natural

This

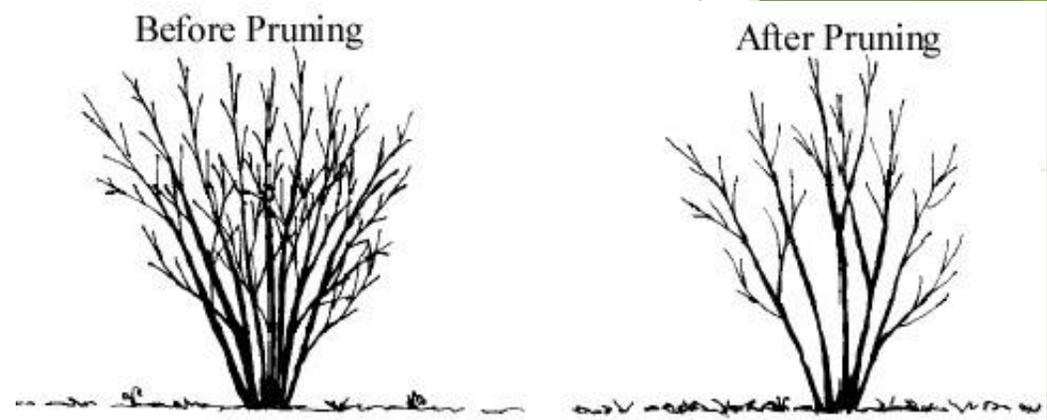
VS.

That



Best Practices For Pruning Shrubs

- Thinning
 - Remove dead, disease, or competing branches
 - Allows for appropriate air-flow through canopy
- Rejuvenation
 - Removes old stems and canes great for colored bark plants
 - Keeps the plant young and able to withstand disease and pests
 - Maintains natural form and limits height
- Coppicing
 - Cut everything to the ground
 - Avoids woody growth that can be unsightly



<https://oldmillnursery.files.wordpress.com/2010/02/pruning.jpg>



<https://georgeweigel.net/georges-current-ramblings-and-readings/why-would-you-cut-a-plant-almost-to-the-ground>

Spring-Flowering Shrubs

- ▶ 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, 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.



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.



Thank you for attending this class!

Please take a minute to fill out this survey to help us improve our classes.

Survey



WEBER BASIN WATER

LEARNING
GARDEN
