

# Pruning

## When To Prune

- Best time is when the tree or shrub is dormant. September to December and February to April.
- Do not prune Maple or Birch in early spring. The sap bleed to much and can be a host for moulds and fungi
- Do not prune forsythia, lilac or mock orange in spring or fall you will cut the flower buds off. They should be pruned right after they finish flowering.
- Evergreens and cedars should be pruned in mid May just after the new growth has come out
- It is illegal to prune elm trees between April 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup> when the Elm Beetle is active.

## First Step to Pruning

- Remove any dead, diseased, broken or suckering branches.

## Second Step

- Remove any branches that are crossing or rubbing

## Third Step

- Prune to desired shape and height.
- Never remove more then 1/3 of the live branches from a tree.

## Rejuvenation of Shrubs

- This method is used for overgrown shrubs that are not longer looking heathy
- In early spring before the shrub leafs out pruning to 2-4" inches from the ground
- The following shrubs can handle this type of pruning. Potentilla, Dogwood, Lilacs, Hydrangea, Honeysuckle, Mockorange, Weigelia, Viburnum (Cranberries), and Elders.

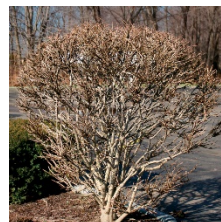


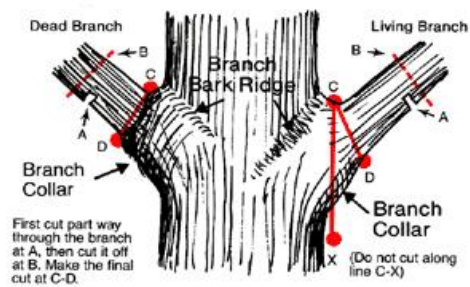
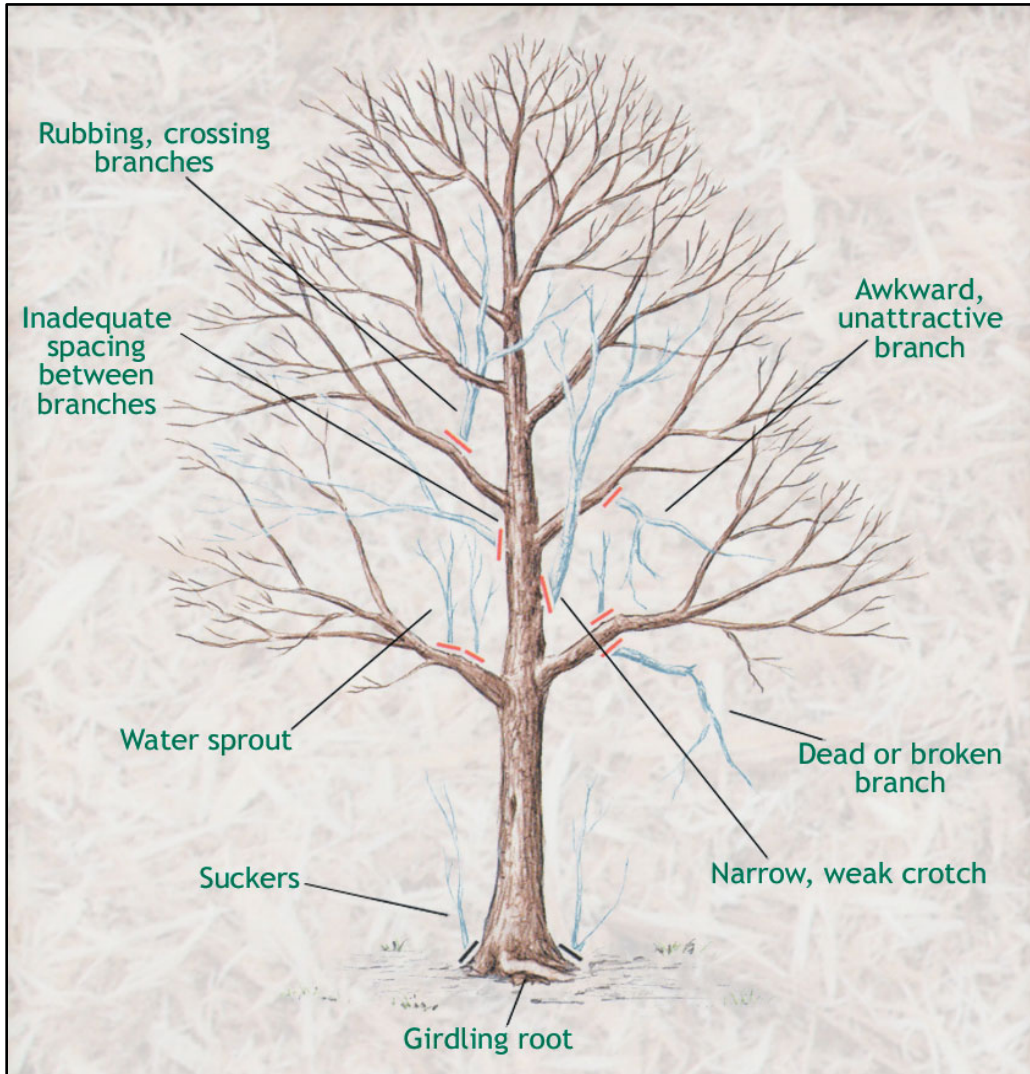
## Hedging

- Your hedge can be trimmed for major height reductions during spring or fall but general shaping can be done throughout the season to keep it at the desired height.

## Bad Pruning Practices

- Never top a tree
- Never prune shrubs with our thinning out. Just trimming the tips will eventually give you just top growth and very little leaving lower down.





**Hardwoods**

