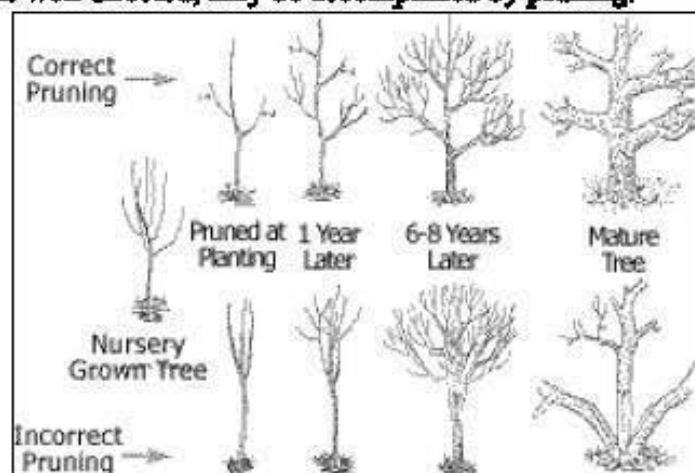
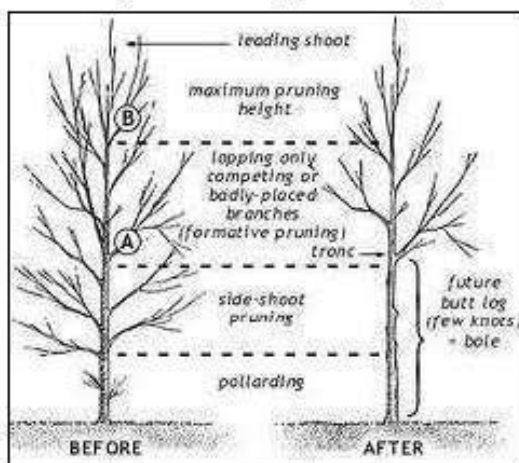


Pruning involves the removal of selected shoots or branches from a tree to improve tree form or wood quality. It is done with secateurs, pruning shears, or hand or saws, depending on branch size, conditions, and to a certain extent preference. Sometimes buds, flowers, fruits or roots are removed as well.

The training of young plants should begin early to avoid future problems. The want to develop a strong frame for limbs to grow on, an upright stature that does not require support, and vigorous growth that is well directed, may be accompanied by pruning.



The main limbs that make up the frame work of trees are known as the scaffold branches, and should be aligned on the trunk in the manner of a spiral staircase. Trees that have grown or are trained in this manner have sturdy branches that are strongly attached to the trunk. This will help to resist breaking from wind or the weight of fruit and foliage. An additional goal in training is to maintain a natural shape for the species. Once a good framework has been established the pruning practices for the remainder of their life are usually limited to what is known as "maintenance pruning." This includes the removal of dead, broken and diseased branches, and also involves removal of branches that may be crossing or rubbing in the wind.



While pruning it should be kept in mind, not to remove more than one-fifth of the tree crown in a given year to avoid stressing the plant or stimulating unwanted regrowth. Hence, pruning should be done in a judicious manner.

If a lateral branch creases into the area occupied by the scaffold (the main limbs that make up the frame work of trees) above or below, it should be considered to be removed, if doing so would not make too large a wound, leave a big hole, or take too much canopy off the tree.

Branches that do not taper much, do not regularly divide, or do not gracefully curve can be pruned out.

Branches that touch the ground or any other hardscape can be removed, provided the branch is not more than half the diameter of the trunk.

Dead branches may be removed from the tree using a saw.

As the final step, a beaded-curtain effect can be created, where one can see through tiny spaces in the foliage by thinning out many small branches, so that a layer of twigs rises above the main branches like a veil. Stripping out or exposing the topmost main branches would possibly allow decaying of the tree