PROPER TREE PRUNING TECHNIQUES

Pruning is an essential and accepted practice, which keeps trees and shrubs healthy.

- Bad pruning is worse than not pruning at all.
- Broken branches and stubs need to be pruned because they will invite insects into the live wood.
- Prune 12 inches away from diseases and blights that are presented on the tree.
- When pruning crossing branches the smaller of the two should be cut. It may be better to cut lower branch at other times.
  - Root suckers are small branches that grow at the base of the tree that will compete with the rest of the tree for nutrients.
  - Water sprouts are lower branches that grow where you have already planted; they need to be pruned because they are competing with the rest of the tree for nutrients.

U-shaped and V-shaped crotches:

- Get rid of the v-shaped crotches because they are unstable; when they break it could kill the tree and damage property. The u-shaped crotches on the other hand will be more stable.

Young tree pruning

- Identify and remove problem branches, when deciding which competing branches to prune always keep the straight ones.
- When pruning deciduous trees always make cuts at a 45 degree angle. With conifers straight cuts are acceptable.
- When pruning large branches use a pruning saw. Before cutting make an undercut one third through the branch before taking it down. This will reduce the weight of the branch for an easier cut.
- Always use bypass hand pruners and loppers to ensure proper cuts.
• To reduce the chance of spreading tree diseases clean equipment in a 10% bleach to water mixture.

• Only remove one-third of the tree branch mass every five years.

• Newly planted trees should only be pruned to remove dead and broken branches during the first two years after planting.

**PROPER TREE REMOVAL TECHNIQUES**

Frank Prater with his many years of experience with trees gave an informative presentation. The most exciting part about this session was being able to see Frank while he went to work on a tree. Certainly the main point of the demonstration was to emphasize safety for everyone in the area, and with safety came utilizing and communicating with a partner on the ground and ensuring that nobody else entered the area unannounced. He stressed a bottom-up method for removing the branches; this allows for the hanging lines of rope to remain untangled for the most part. Beyond that, remaining attached to the tree at all times was a very important part of a successful tree pruning or removal.
Proper Pruning

Sue Mottl
City of Stow
Landscape Arborist
Why Prune?

- Pruning is an essential and accepted practice which keeps trees and shrubs healthy.

- Keep in mind that bad pruning is worse than none at all.
What to Prune

Dead Branches
What to Prune
Broken Branches
What to Prune

Broken Branches
What to Prune

Stubs
What to Prune

Insect and Disease Infested
What to Prune

Crossing and Rubbing Branches
What to Prune

Root Suckers
What to Prune

Watersprouts
What to Prune

Convenience

• Remove lower branches to allow pedestrians and vehicles to pass under.
What to Prune

U versus V shaped Crotches
What to Prune

V-shaped crotch
What to Prune

U-shaped crotch
Young Tree Pruning

• Identify and reduce or remove super dominant branches.
• Prune to leave one central leader.
• Identify lowest permanent scaffold branches and prune to expose it to full sun and eliminate competition.
Young Tree Pruning

• Identify permanent scaffold branches and prune to expose it to full sun and eliminate competition. Leave 18 to 24 inches between branches.

• Limb up temporary branches. Remove branches from bottom one-third (1/3) of tree.

• Remove branches that interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
Young Tree Pruning

- Remove dead and broken branches from upper canopy and water sprouts and root suckers from roots and trunks.
Young Tree Pruning

- Remove dead and broken branches from upper canopy and water sprouts and root suckers from roots and trunks.
Tree Pruning

Family A’s Tree
Not Pruned When Young
Tree Pruning

Family B’s Tree
Pruned When Young
Proper Pruning Principals

- Identify the branch bark ridge
Proper Pruning Principals

- Identify the branch bark collar.
Proper Pruning Principals

- Make the undercut.
Proper Pruning Principals

• Make the top cut.
Proper Pruning Principals

- Make the final cut.
Proper Pruning Principals

• Do not make flush cuts.
Proper Pruning Principals

- Conifers.
Proper Pruning Tools

• Hand Pruner - Anvil
Proper Pruning Tools

- Hand Pruner – Bypass
Proper Pruning Tools

- Lopper
Proper Pruning Tools

- Pole Saw
Proper Pruning Tools

• Pole Pruner
Proper Pruning Tools

- Chainsaw