



Making A Cut

- When pruning a branch off of a tree, make the cut just outside the Branch Collar, which is the swollen area near the trunk.
- Making a clean cut along the branch collar allows the tree to properly heal.

The Right Tools

- For small trees, most of the cuts can be made with hand pruning shears (secateurs).
- The scissor type, or by-pass blade hand pruners, are preferred over the anvil type; they make cleaner, more accurate cuts.
- Cuts larger than 1/2 inch in diameter should be made with lopping shears or a pruning saw.



Pruning

- Early spring and late fall are the ideal times to prune almost all species of trees and shrubs to prevent disease and insect damage. The exception is Sugar or Hard maple, which should be pruned in mid-summer when sap levels under the bark are lowest.
- A newly planted tree should not be severely pruned; only wounded branches, broken branches or dead branches should be removed, as well as watersprouts.
- After three years, corrective pruning should be attempted on your established trees.
- Pick the central leader and remove any other competing leaders.
- Remove any crossing branches.
- Remove any suckers from the base, trunk, or lateral branches.
- Remove any dead or dying branches.
- Remove low branches which may interfere with traffic.
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the live crown of any tree at one time.

