

# Welcome to the DCGO Presentation Basic Pruning



# Agenda

- Reasons for Pruning
- Tools
- Safety
- Annuals
- Shrubs
- Trees
- Techniques
- Resources

# Why Prune

- Remove diseased vegetation
- Promote new growth
- Improve structural strength
- Increase bloom time
- Improve the appearance of the plant
- Reduce the size of the plant



# Tools for Pruning

- Pruners
- Loppers
  - Long handles for leverage
  - Some have a ratchet to cut larger limbs
- Saws
- Hedge trimmers, not recommended
- Recommended Accessories
  - Gloves
  - Eye Protection
  - Disinfectant, cleaner

# Pruners

- One or two edged aka bypass and anvil
- Should be sharpened as necessary
- Clean and disinfect after each plant
  - More often if pruning out diseased vegetation

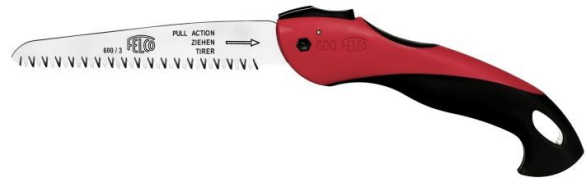






# Saws

- Pruning saws
  - Folding
  - Fixed blade
  - Usually 8 to 12 inches
  - Can cut limbs up to 6 inches in diameter
- Pole saws aka pruning hooks
  - Fixed blade with a branch cutter
  - Usually have an extendable pole which may reach up to 14 feet
  - Electric saws are available
- Also need to sharpened
- Sawsalls can be used





Pruner  
Cut Capacity



1"

Saw Cut  
Capacity >1"



# Safety

- Use common sense
- Keep tools clean and sharp
- Wear eye protection and gloves
- Don't stand under branches being cut
  - If possible stay upwind as well
- Be aware of surroundings
  - Watch out for spiders and biting/stinging insects



# Pruning Annuals

- Also called dead heading
- Remove bloom after pollination and before seeds are mature
- Results in longer bloom period
- Flowers won't self seed



# Pruning Perennials

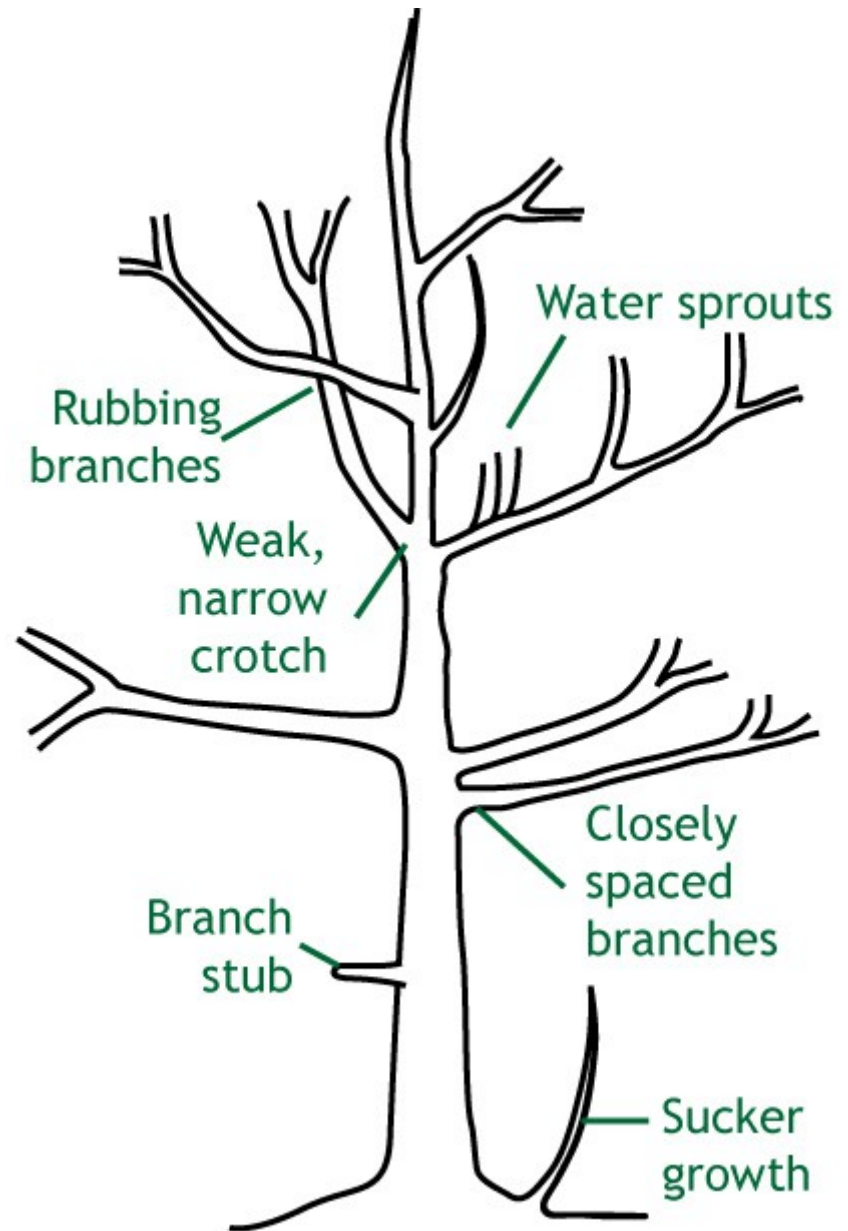
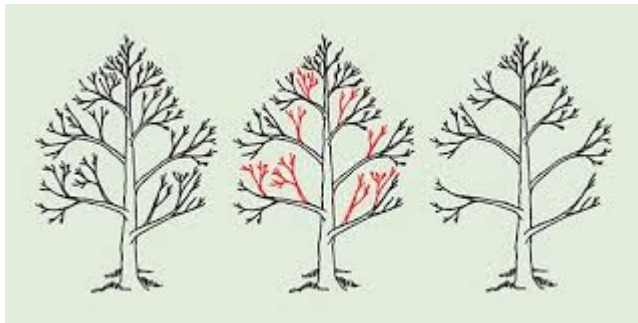
- Timing depends on species of shrub
  - Flowering shrubs such as azaleas and forsythias prune soon after blooming ends
  - Others such as box wood and red tips prune in fall and winter
- Prune to a natural shape
- If doing a restoration prune take back to healthy, green, stems
- Cut perennial flowers back to close to ground level





# Pruning Trees

- Diseased and dead wood can be cut out anytime
- Trees can be cut back less than 10% whenever needed
- Major pruning should be done when trees are dormant
  - Be aware that maple sap starts to run early
- Prune water sprouts
- Prune to allow branches sufficient space
- Know your limits
  - Pruning requiring climbing in the tree or large limbs is probably best left to pros



# Pruning Techniques I

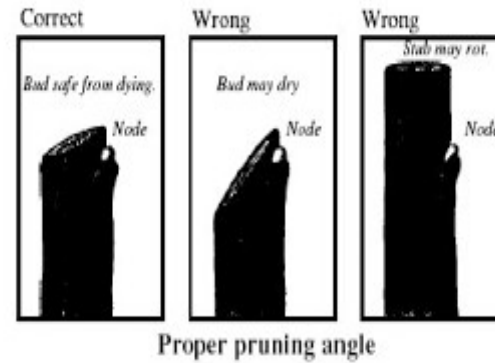
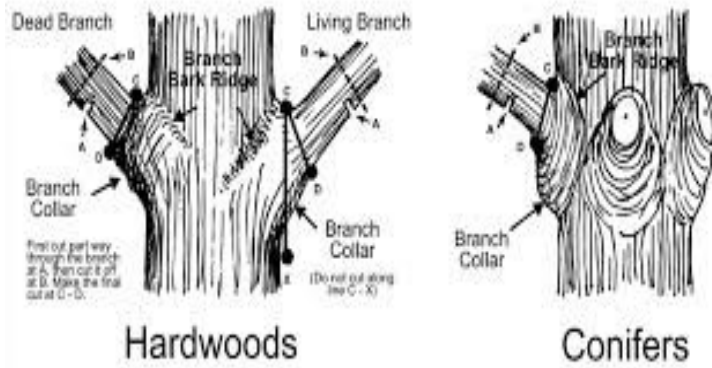
- Cut at a medium angle
- Prune near a bud next to the collar leave the bud intact
- A healthy tree should not be topped
  - Only top to remove storm damage
  - If necessary to lower the crown of the tree do a drop-crotch crown removal, cut back to existing large branches
- If branch is pruned correctly no sealer is needed.



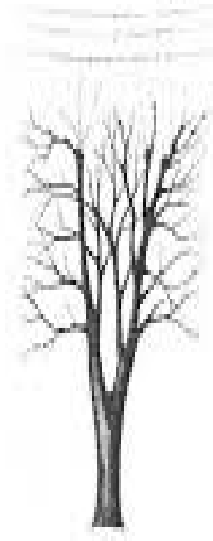
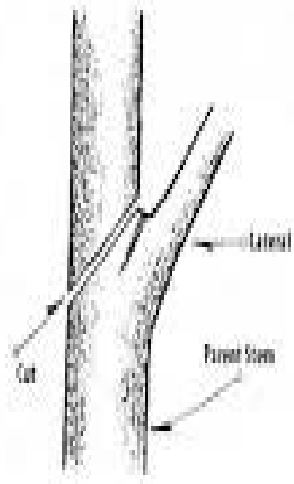
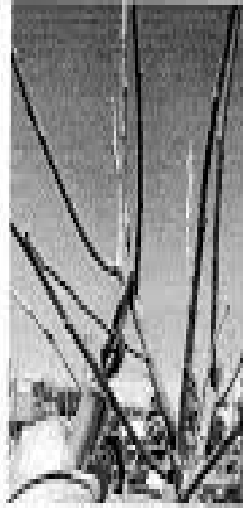
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## Proper Pruning Principles

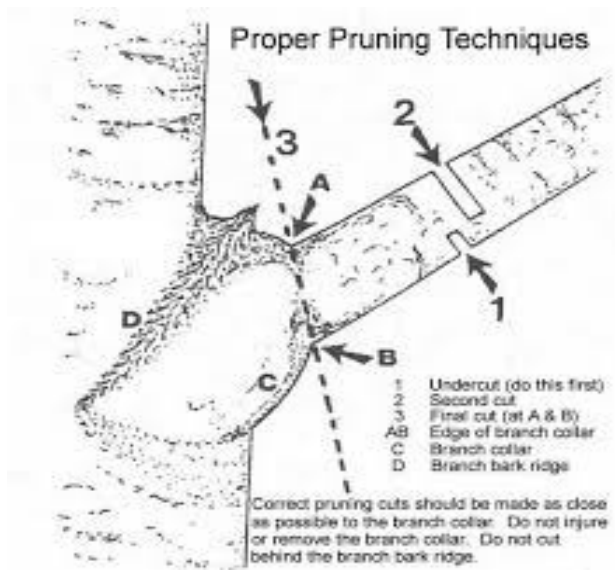


## Crown Reduction (Drop-Crotch Pruning)



# Pruning Techniques II

- When pruning a large limb make a notch cut one or two feet away from the trunk first. Then make a cut at the collar
- Thinning is preferred to shearing
  - Cutting selected branches to a lateral branch, bud or main trunk
  - Encourages new growth in the interior
  - Shearing results on growth only at the exterior of the plant
- A cut branch will encourage growth on the side opposite the cut





# Resources

- Pruning Ornamentals:  
<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B961&title=Pruning%20Ornamental%20Plants%20in%20the%20Landscape>
- Basic Principles of Pruning Woody Plants:  
<https://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.html?number=B949&title=Basic%20Principles%20of%20Pruning%20Woody%20Plants>
- Pruning Calendar:  
<http://www.walterreeves.com/uploads/WRshrubpruning.pdf>

Questions

Thank you