

PRUNING TERMINOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES

TERMINOLOGY

pruning - removal of plant parts, branches, shoot tips, buds, roots, etc.

dehorning - heavy drastic pruning of large limbs; should be avoided at all times; also called **pollarding**.

thinning out - removal of branches back to their point of origin.

Used to:

- 1) decrease density of the canopy
- 2) encourage other branches to grow and rejuvenate plant
- 3) redirect growth

heading back - removal of the terminal portions of a branch.

Used to:

- 1) increase density of the canopy
- 2) encourage branching

pinching - removal of the young, succulent tips of shoots.

hedging - removal of growth flushes on hedges or shrubs to shape canopy and induce dense growth.

disbudding - removal of excessive flower buds on flowering pot plants.

root pruning - pruning of roots, usually with a shovel, to prepare plants for transplanting.

OBJECTIVES OF PRUNING

- 1) **Health and safety**
- 2) **Maintain desired form**
- 3) **Dwarfing**
- 4) **Invigoration**
- 5) **Increase productivity**
- 6) **Equalize root/shoot ratio**
- 7) **Develop strong branch framework**

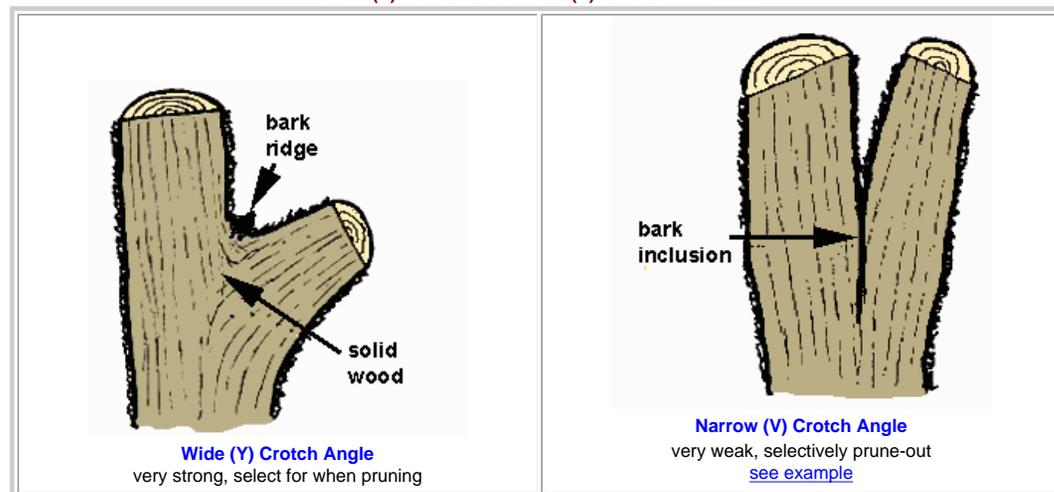
PRUNING METHODS

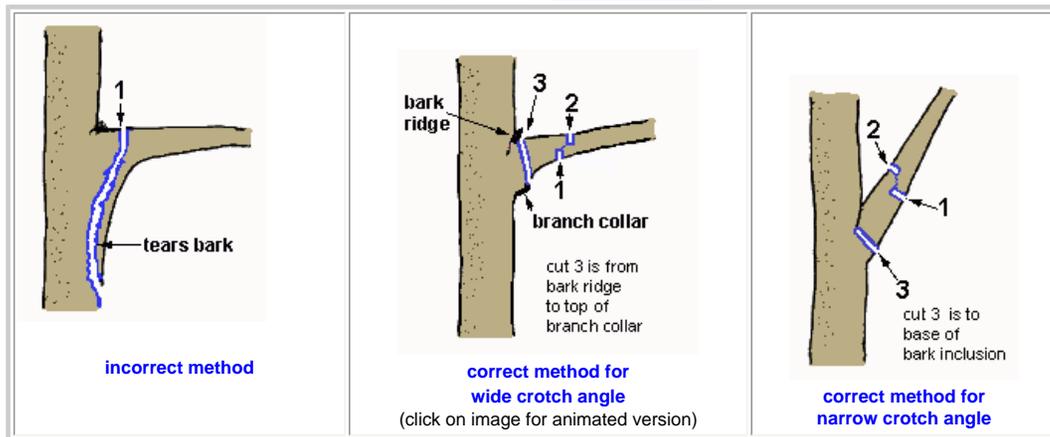
SPECIALTY, NOVELTY OR ORNAMENTAL PRUNING

topiary - pruning to produce a 3-dimensional design or form.

espalier - pruning to produce a 2-dimensional design or form.

WIDE (Y) VERSUS NARROW (V) CROTCH ANGLES



CORRECT METHOD TO PRUNE A BRANCHCalled **Target Pruning** ([click for more detail](#))

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FACTORS TO CONSIDER ON WHEN TO PRUNE1) **Growth State:** best when inactive or dormant2) **Susceptibility to winter injury:** for plants easily damaged by winter freezes

- **prune after cold of winter.**
- remove all winter killed tissue.

you may need to allow some spring growth to tell if tissue is dead or not.

3) **Time of flower bud formation on flowering plants:**a) **spring flowering plants:**

- flower on last years growth (2 year old wood); i.e. flower buds present since last summer or fall.
- therefore, **prune right after flowering in spring and before new buds form.**

b) **summer or fall flowering plants:**

- flower on current years growth (1 year old wood); i.e. flower buds form on new growth of current year.
- therefore, prune fall, winter or early spring, but **best to prune after cold of winter and before new growth starts in spring.**

4) **Transplanting:** pruning should be to equalize root/shoot ratio, thus, decrease transplanting shock.**To equalize root/shoot ratio:**

- thin-out** immediately after or at the time of transplanting
- root prune** before transplanting (months to years).

CHEMICAL PINCHING AGENTS

Chemicals that selectively kill or disrupt shoot tips to remove apical dominance.

- 1) Atrinal
- 2) Off-Shoot-0
- 3) Maleic hydrazide
- 4) Emgard 2007

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