

PRUNING

Heritage Orchards

WHAT IS PRUNING?

Cutting away dead or overgrown branches to increase fruit production

WHY PRUNE?

- Develop strong tree structure
- Provide light
- Control size
- Remove damaged wood
- Encourage balanced growth
- Maintain health
- Increase fruit production

WHEN TO PRUNE?

- Late winter to early spring

Why?

- Trees are dormant
- Wounds heal easier
- No leaves make it easier
- Bark is less likely to tear
- Minimizes risk of infection

SANITATION

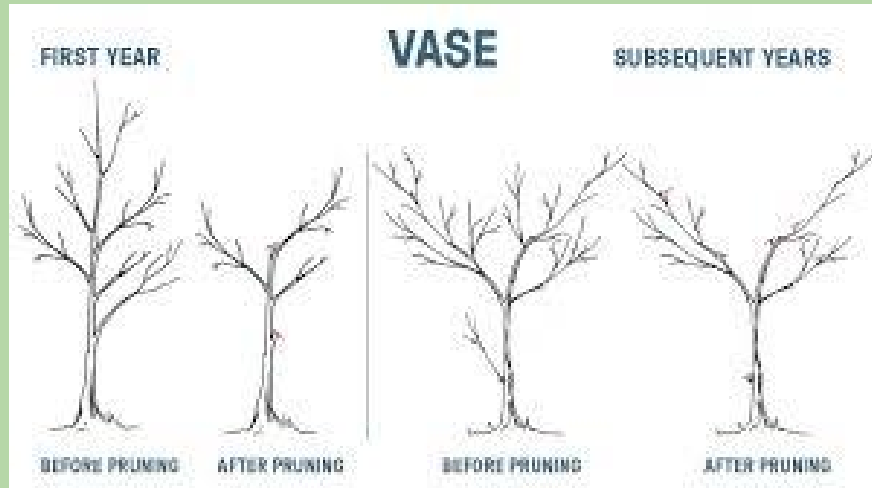
It is important to clean your pruners to prevent spread of disease among trees.

Always treat your tools with bleach water to disinfect

OPEN VS CENTRAL LEADERS

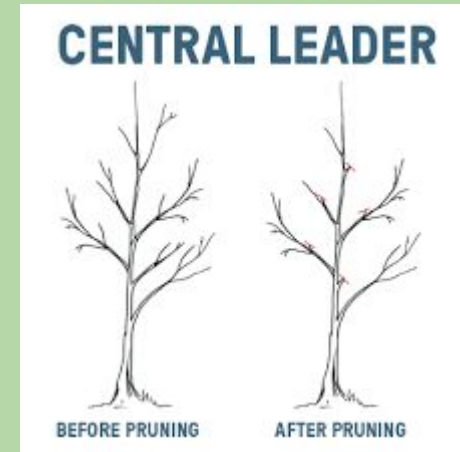
Open Center AKA Vase

Best with peaches, apricots and plums



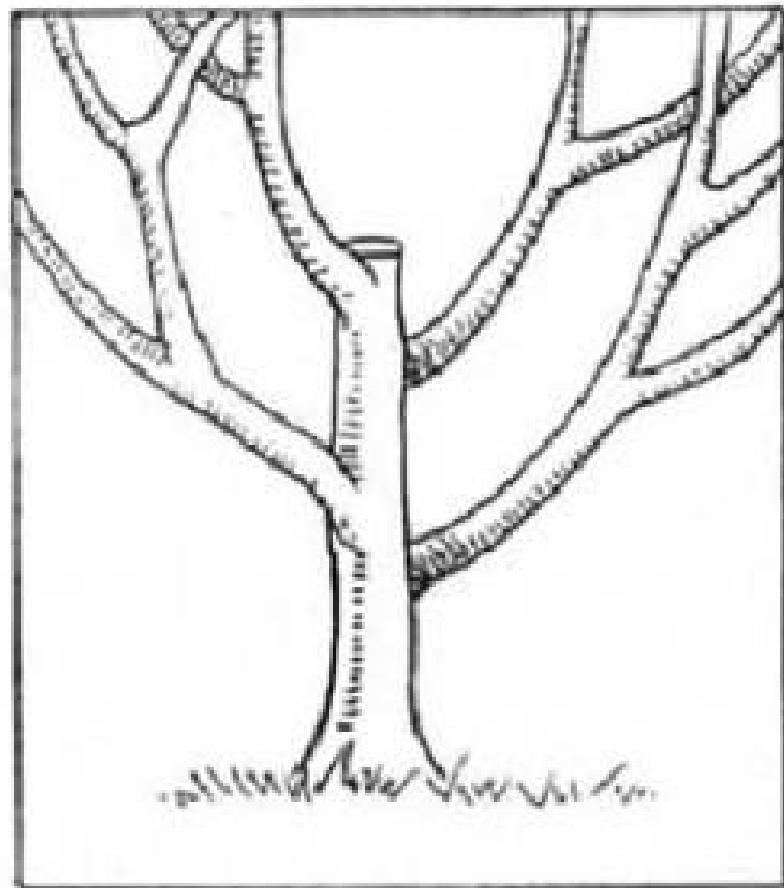
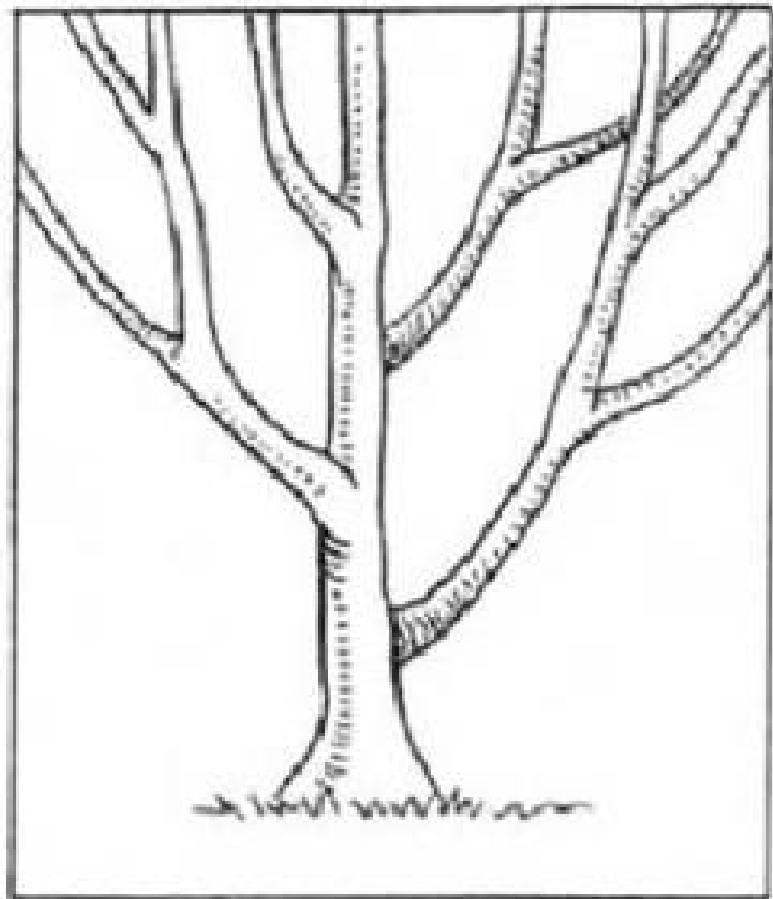
Central leader- central branch continues off of trunk

Best for apple, pears, cherry, plum

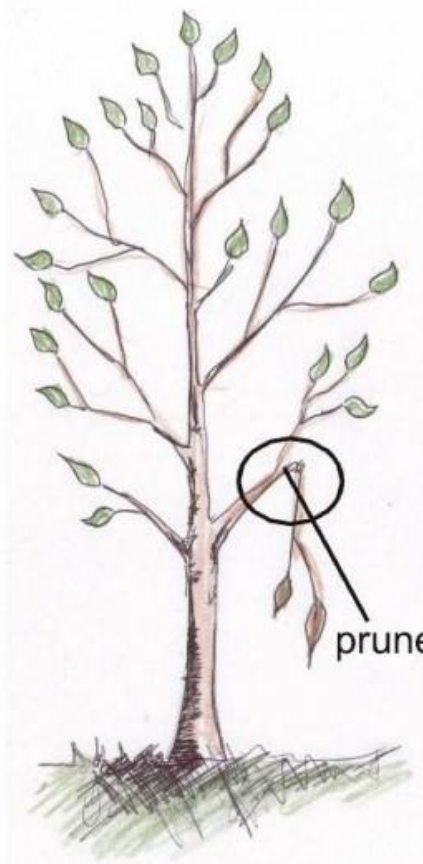


WHAT TO PRUNE

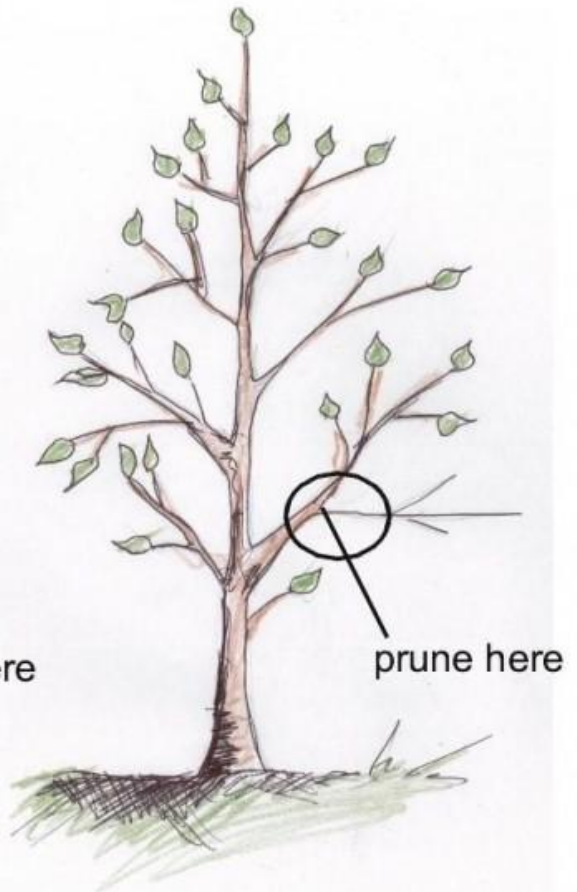
- Suckers and sprouts
- Weak secondary branches
- Cross limbs
- Too much vertical growth
- Broken branches
- Double leaders



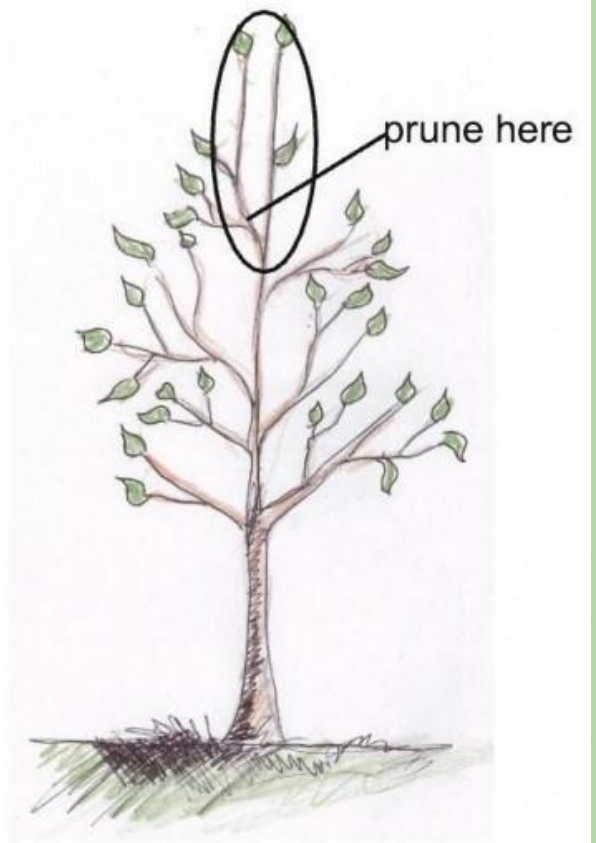
Broken Limbs



Dead Limbs



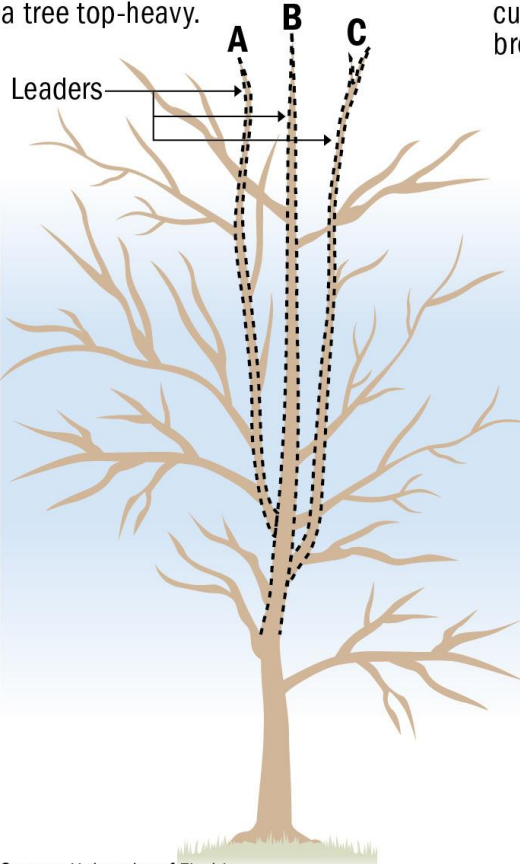
Two Leaders



Tree pruning for storms

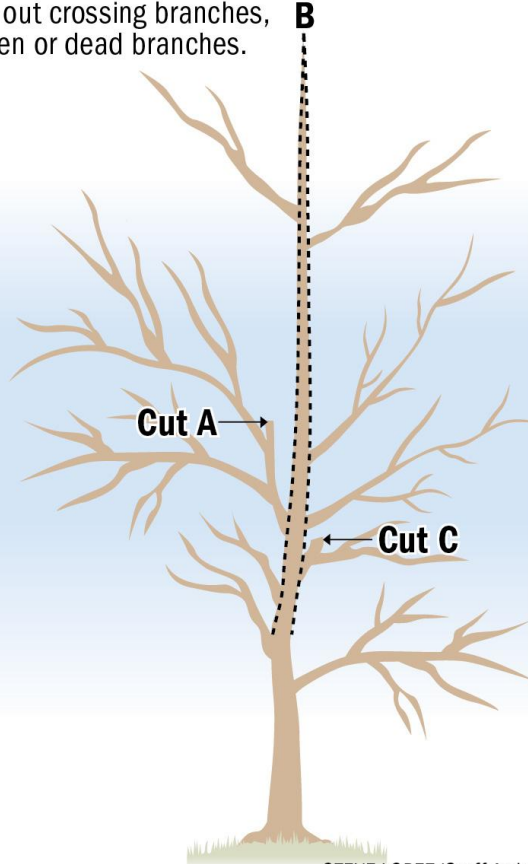
BEFORE PRUNING

Three leaders make a tree top-heavy.



AFTER PRUNING

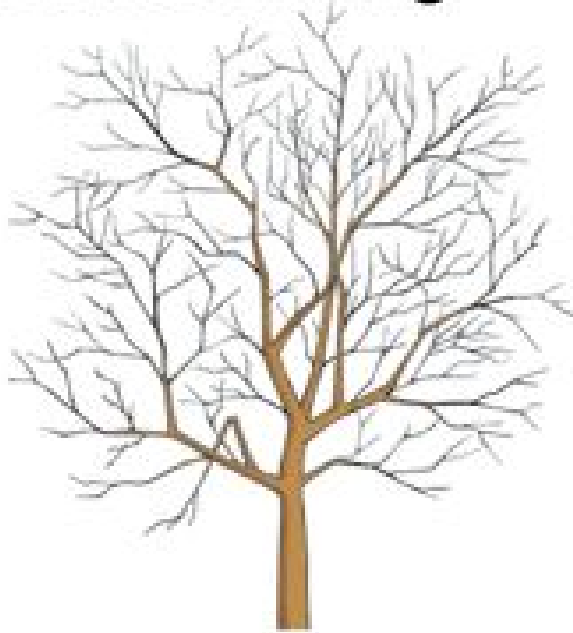
Trim made to one leader cuts out crossing branches, broken or dead branches.



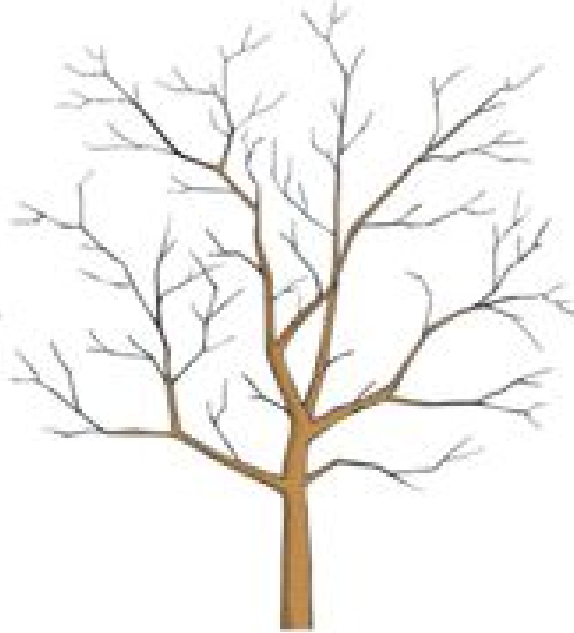
A Look at Pruning

GOOD

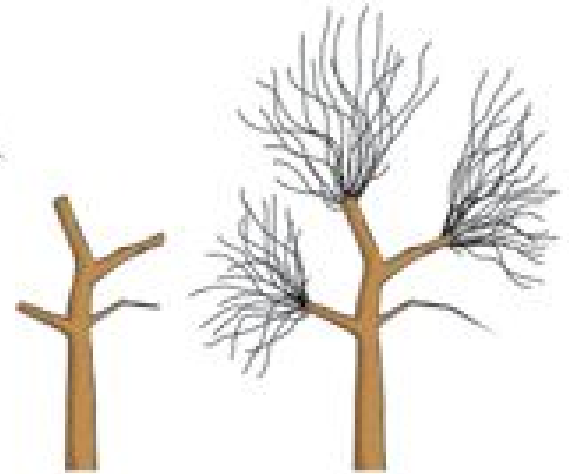
NOT GOOD



Before Pruning



Well-Pruned, Open Head

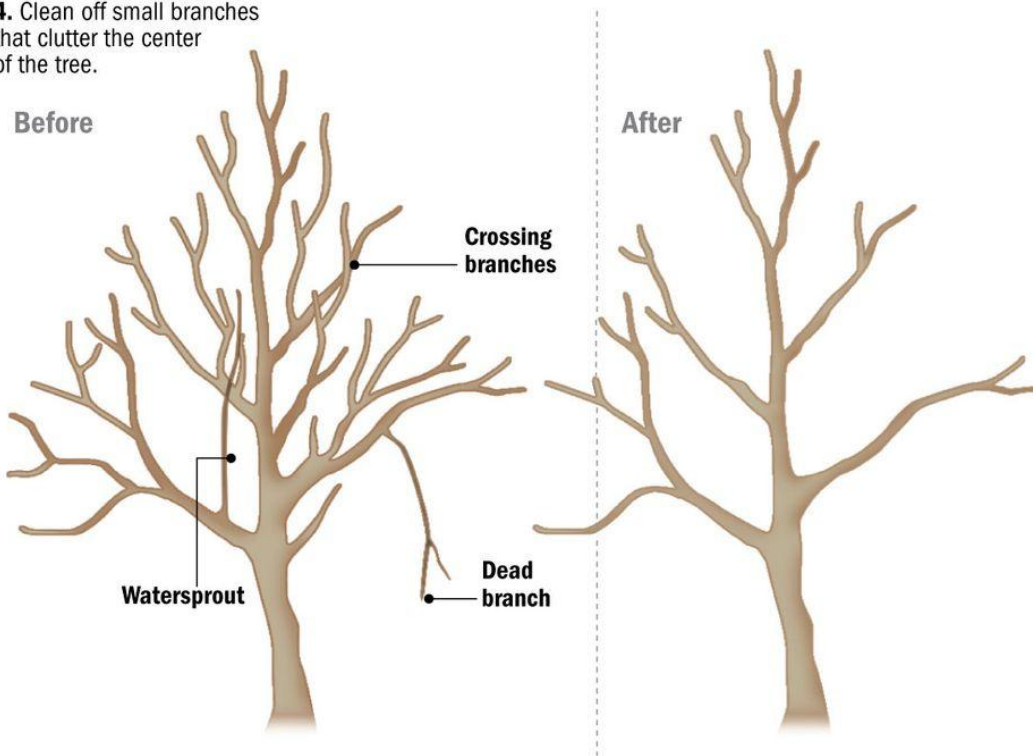


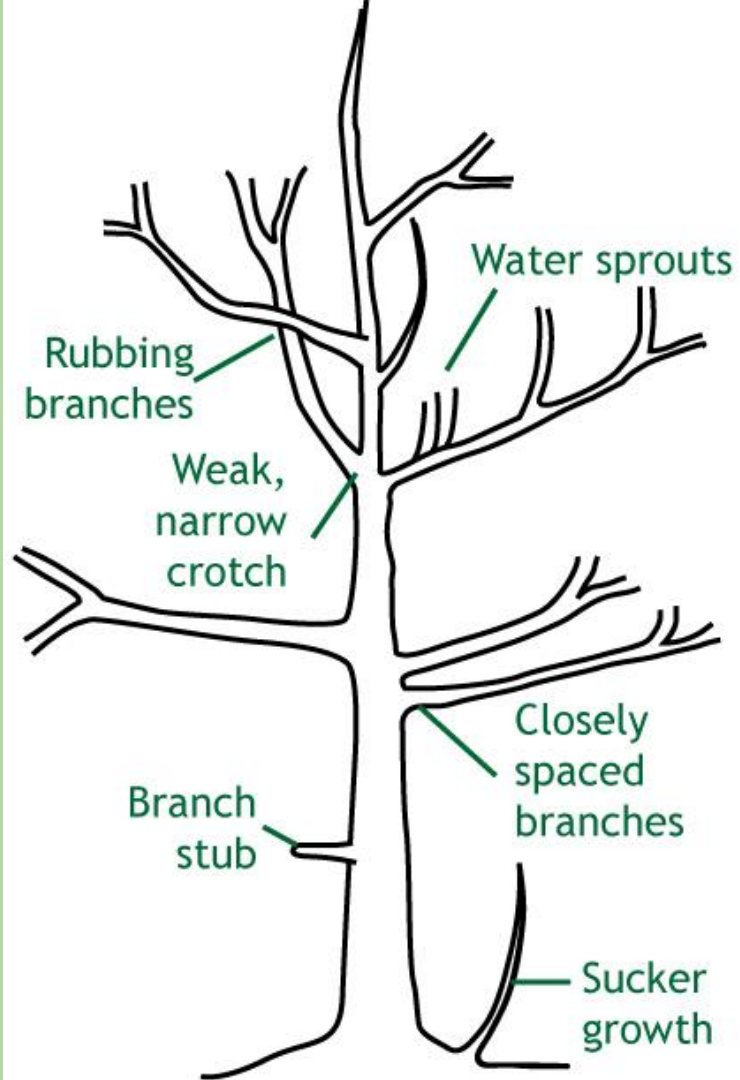
Topping produces clumps of uncontrolled growth

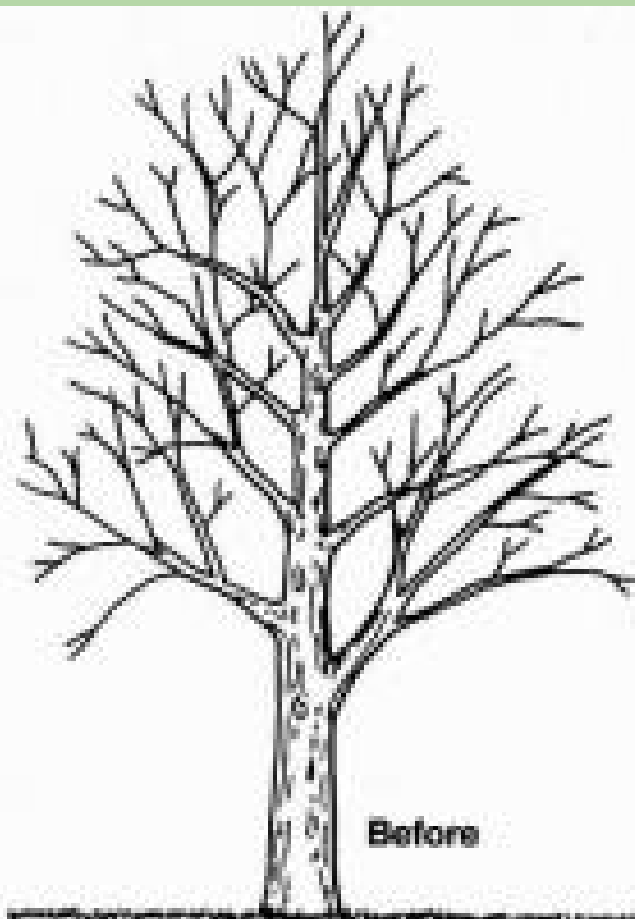
Tree pruning for storms

The order of pruning is always the same:

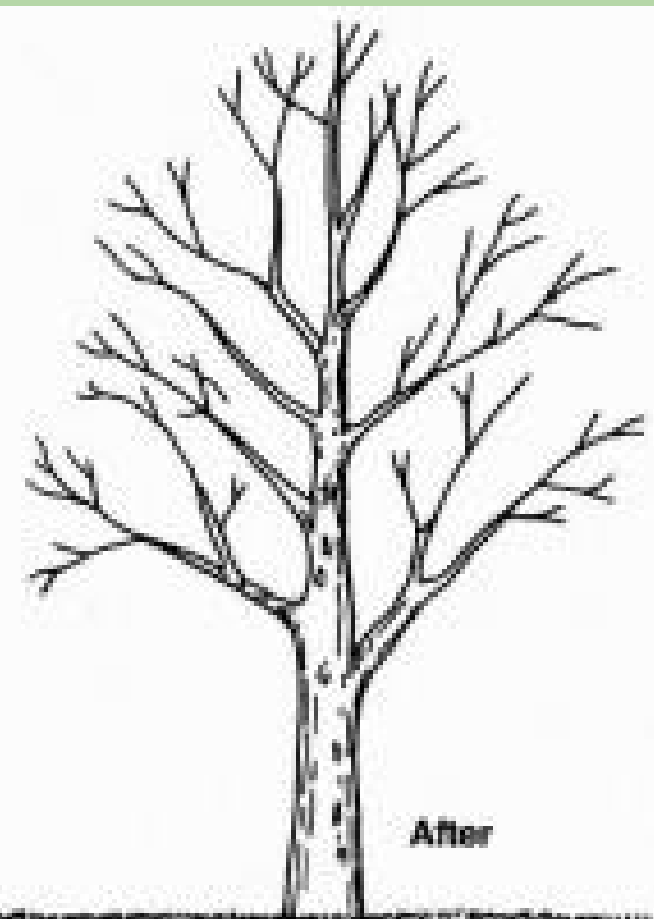
1. Cut out dead, diseased and damaged wood.
2. Take out watersprouts.
3. Cut out crossing branches and those growing into the center of the tree.
4. Clean off small branches that clutter the center of the tree.
5. Select a well-spaced framework of branches and cut all others out completely.
6. Shorten branches to give a balanced head.







Before



After

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teno0-BTMs4>

<https://www.starkbros.com/growing-guide/article/central-leader-pruning-fruit-trees>

