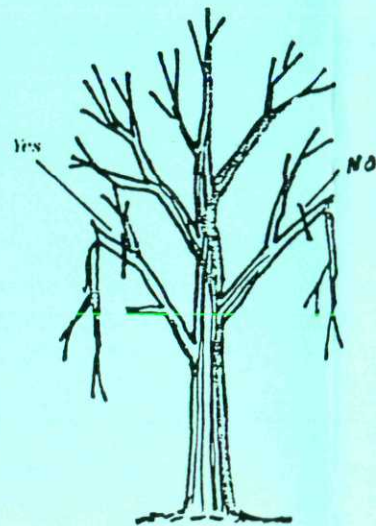


Pruning

Pruning at the time of transplanting, if done at all, should be light pruning to provide the tree with as much leaf surface as possible to rebuild the root system. Besides pruning at time of injury, the best time to prune most species is late winter or early spring when the tree is dormant.

After the first year pruning should be undertaken to strengthen and form the tree. For strength, remove branches with narrow, weak forks, suckers, rubbing branches and the lower temporary branches. For form, remove double leaders and ingrowing branches, thin laterals to 8-12 inches apart and balance the crown.

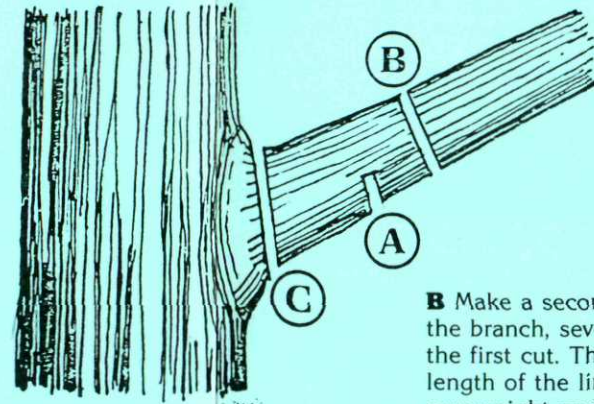
Caution: Do not attempt to prune trees near or around electric lines! Ladders and chainsaws are not for amateurs! Hire a professional.



Cutting flush against a larger limb or the trunk was once believed to be the best way to prune. We now know that such a method is improper because it weakens a tree's natural defense against the invasion of disease organisms. The possibly harmful effects of pruning wounds can be minimized by making all cuts just to the outside of the raised areas at branch intersections. These features are called bark ridges (above) and branch collars (underneath).

Removing the jagged remains of broken limbs is the most common repair the homeowners can make after a storm. It is also an important task because, if done properly, it will minimize the risk of decay pathogens entering the tree. Following good pruning techniques, cut off limb stubs where they join the next largest branch or the trunk. Do not simply cut immediately below the break.

Because of its weight a large limb could tear loose during pruning, stripping bark and creating jagged edges that invite insects and disease. That won't happen if you follow these steps.



A Cut part way through the branch from beneath at a point one or two feet from the trunk.

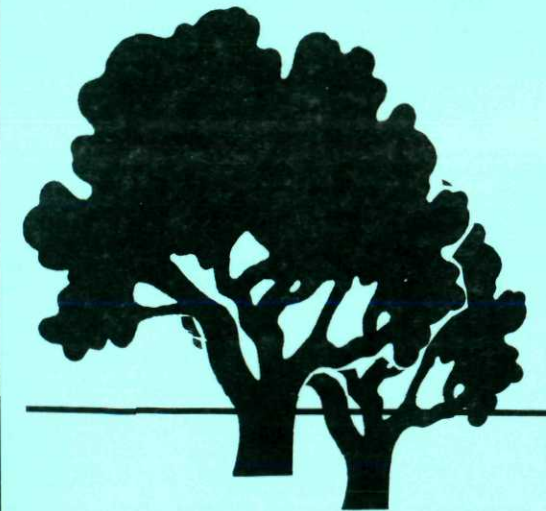
B Make a second cut on the top of the branch, several inches out from the first cut. This should allow the length of the limb to fall from its own weight and be safely removed.

C Complete the job by making a final cut next to the trunk, just outside the branch collar, with the lower edge farther away from the trunk than at the top.



Department of Environmental Conservation

SHADE TREE CARE



New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

MARIO M. CUOMO, Governor
THOMAS C. JORLING, Commissioner

Many people recognize the benefits of trees.

Shade trees provide cooling on hot summer days, act as wind and noise buffers, and filter the air we breathe. They can also greatly increase the value of our homes as they add to the beauty of our surroundings.

Trees need sunlight, air, soil, nutrients and water to live. There must be enough of these present in acceptable quantity to support growth. Sometimes trees require care to correct site problems, remove limbs or aid in healing injuries. Many problems need the attention of a professional arborist. Others are within the power of the homeowner to correct. This pamphlet addresses some very basic tree care principles.

Watering

Trees benefit from one inch of rain per week. You should think about supplemental watering after two weeks of dry weather. Local watering restrictions during droughts or concern for the family well may preclude being able to water, unless one is willing to haul water from a stream or other accessible water body.

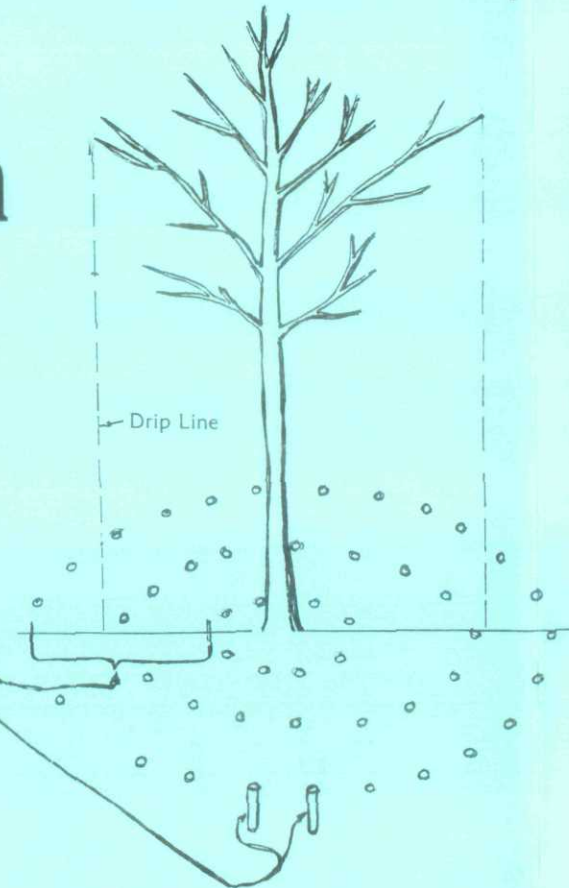
One way to measure the amount of water a tree receives from rainfall or watering is to place a shallow, open tin can under the tree and periodically measure the depth captured.

Fertilization

1. Area of application: First circle starts at 2½ feet from trunk, last circle ends about ⅓ of the distance beyond branch spread.

2. Holes should be punched at 18" intervals, to a depth of 18" for hardwoods and 8" for evergreens.

Apply fertilizer in spring. Use 5-10-5 or 10-6-4 analysis. Do Not use lawn fertilizer (20-N-N)



Application Rates:
5-10-5 = 2-5 lbs.
per inch of trunk
diameter.

10-6-4 = 1-3 lbs.
per inch of trunk
diameter.

Fall application
promotes root
growth.

Fertilization can be done
annually or once every
three to four years.

For additional information read: "Suggested Practices for Planting & Maintaining Trees & Shrubs" info. bull. #24, Cornell Coop. Ext. pub. Available from your county Coop. Ext. office.