

Pruning for South Florida



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Pruning

Definition:

The judicious removal of
plant parts in order to
direct new growth



Reasons for Pruning

- **Size control**
- **Health**
- **Safety**
- **Training**
- **Improve appearance**
- **Influence flowering, fruiting
and/or vigor**



Reason for Pruning

Size Control:

Pruning can maintain or
reduce the size of a tree.

- Can reduce shade
- Decrease the danger of
damage in a wind storm
- Prevent interference with utility
lines



Reason for Pruning

Health:

Pruning can help prevent the spread of diseases, insects and in some cases, stem rot.

- Correct pruning can increase light penetration and air circulation

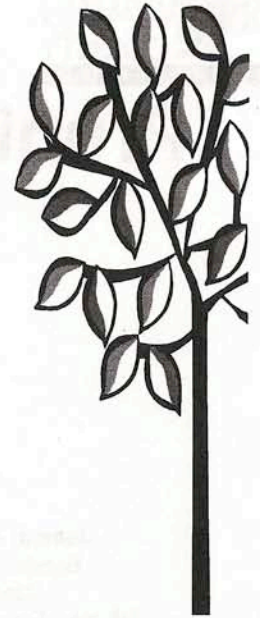


Reason for Pruning

Safety:

Removal of dead and hazardous low limbs will increase the safety around the tree.

- Wind resistance may also be reduced
- Remove branches with V-shaped crotches



Reason for Pruning

Training Young Plants:

Main branches may be trained when the plant is young.

- It is easier to shape the branches when a tree is young
- Pruning young trees right will save time and money in the future



Reason for Pruning

Improve Appearance:

- Pruning can shape the tree, to accentuate but not alter its natural form



Reason for Pruning

Influence flowering, fruiting and/or vigor:

- Pruning at the right time and place can improve flower quantity which in return improves fruit quantity.



What to Prune

- Remove dead, diseased or damaged wood.
- Remove rubbing and interfering branches and water sprouts
- Prune poorly placed branches and narrow "V" crotches (included bark)
- Prune the plant to shaped desired



Do Not remove more than 1/4 of the foliage at one time



When to Prune in South FL

- Trees can be pruned any time in South Florida
- Major pruning in winter when the plants are less actively growing
- Before hurricane season
- Flowering trees – after flowering
- Fruit trees- after fruiting season



Safety Rules for Pruning

- If you need a ladder, the tree is too large for you to prune
- If the branch is more than 2 inches in diameter, do not do it.
- Use protective eye wear, protective clothing and gloves
- Make sure your tools are sharp



Safety Rules for Pruning

- **Do Not** work near power lines or power sources
- Never use a chain saw
- Stay away from storm damaged trees
- Concentrate on your job
- Know your limits and limits of your tools, when in doubt, call a professional



Definitions

- **Lion-tailing:** Removing all of the inner laterals and foliage. Displacing the foliar weight to the ends of the branches. This causes sunburned bark tissue, watersprouts and branch breakage.
- **Crown reduction:** This reduces the size of a tree Best accomplished by cutting limbs back to laterals that are at least 1/3 the size of the parent limb. Often referred to as **drop-crotch pruning**
- **Topping or heading back:** Cutting of limbs back to a stub, bud or a lateral branch not large enough to assume the terminal role.

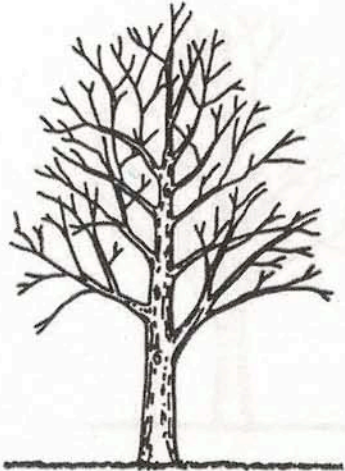


Definitions

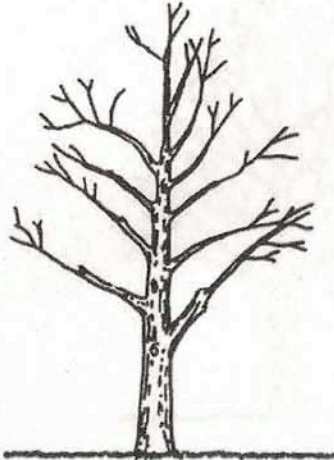
- **Deadwooding:** Removal of dead, weak and dying branches from a tree to eliminate safety hazards
- **Crown cleaning:** this removes dead, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, low vigor branches and water sprouts from a tree crown
- **Crown thinning:** Includes crown cleaning as well as selective removal of branches to increase light penetration and air movement into the crown, and to reduce weight.



Lion-tailing

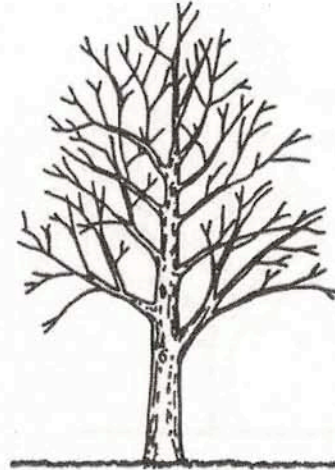


Before

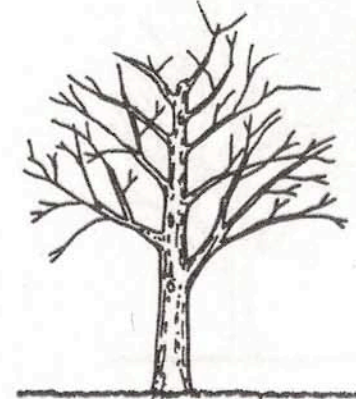


After

Topping or Heading Back

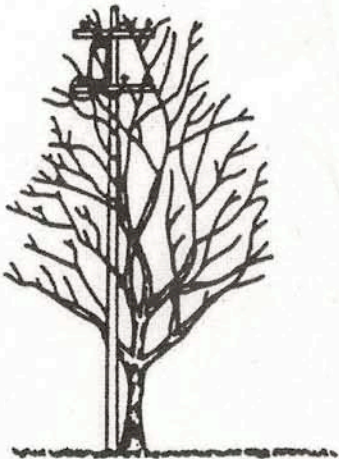


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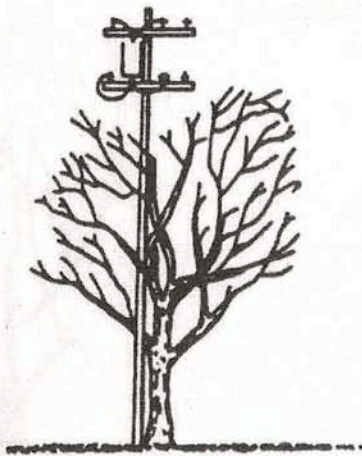


After

Crown Reduction

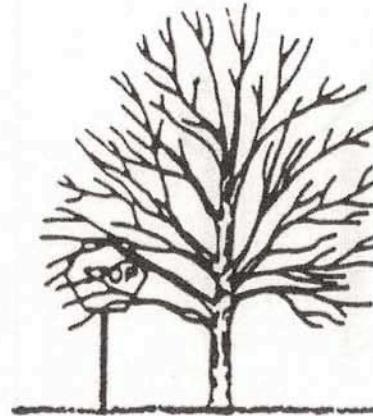


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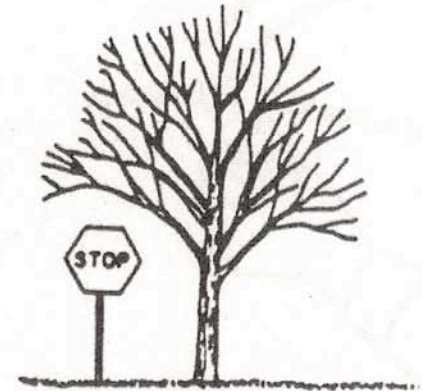


After

Crown Raising

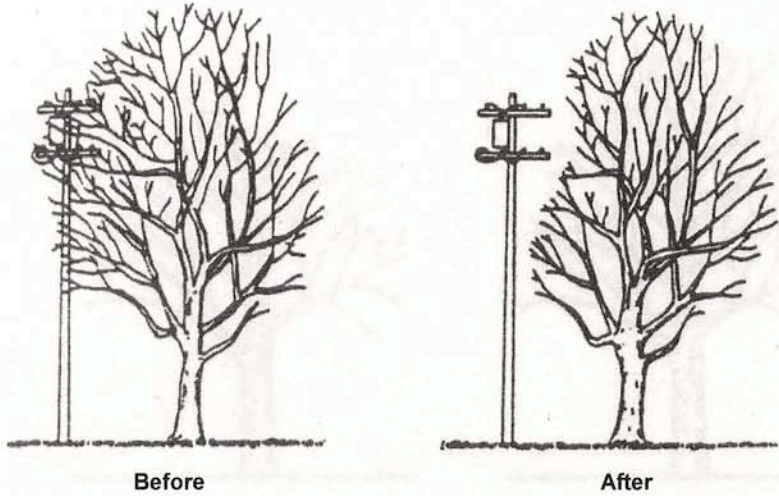


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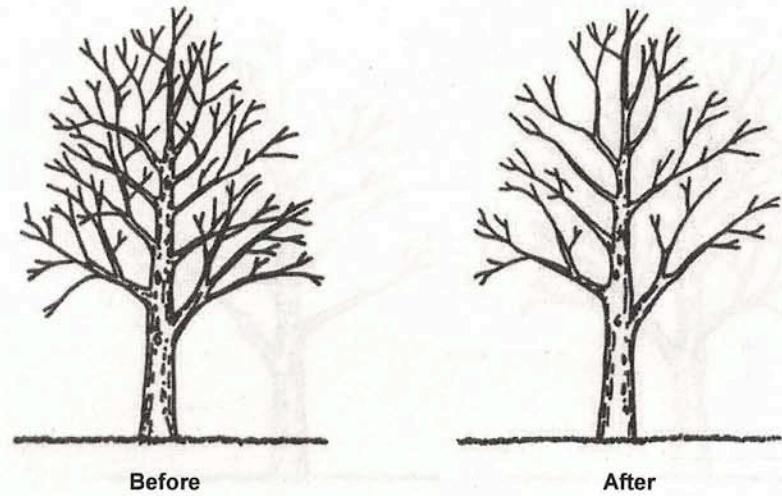


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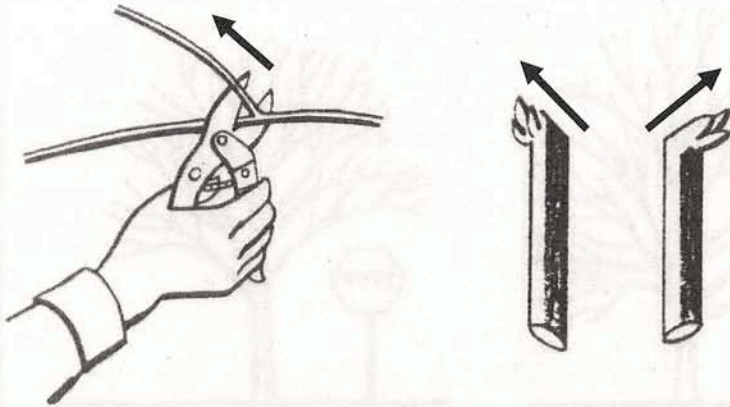
Side Pruning



Thinning a Tree

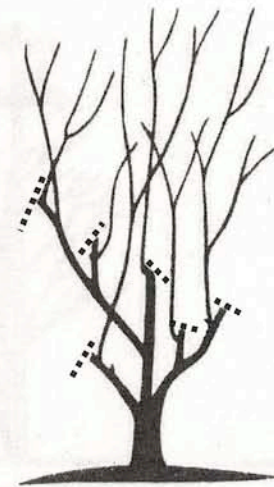


Pruning to Change the Shape



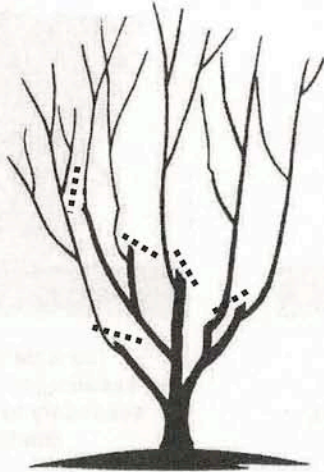
Pruning for Upright

Note the center
branches are
close



Pruning for Spread

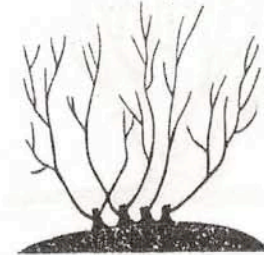
Note the center branches are more open



Pruning Overgrown Plants



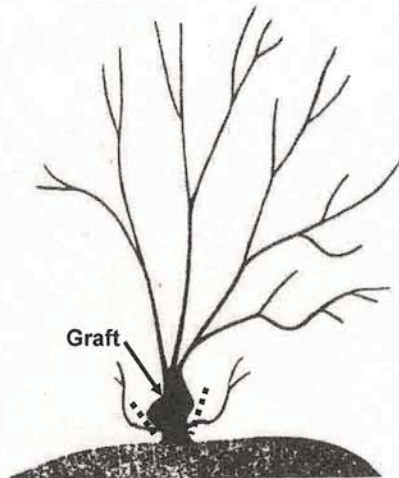
Before



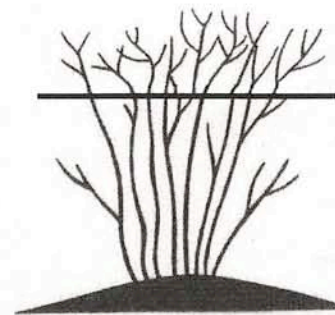
After

Pruning Grafted Shrubs

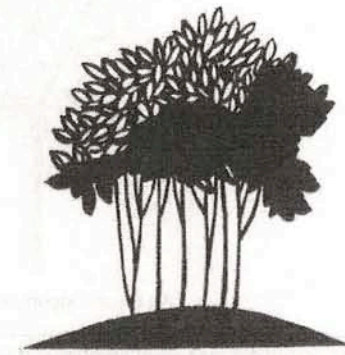
Remove new shoots that start below the graft



Pruning Shrubs Wrong

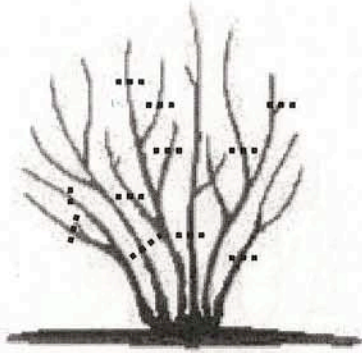


Growth Before

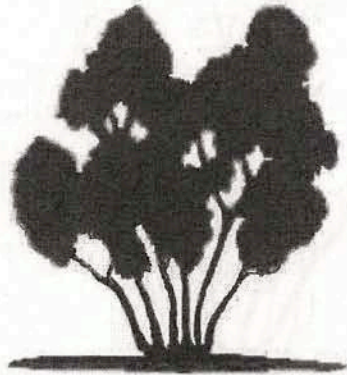


Growth pattern after cut

Pruning Shrubs for a Natural Look

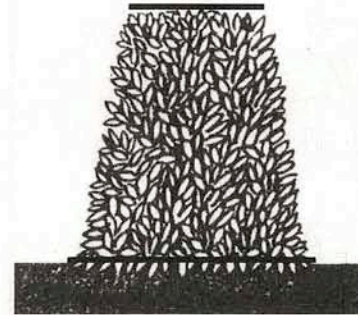


Before Pruning

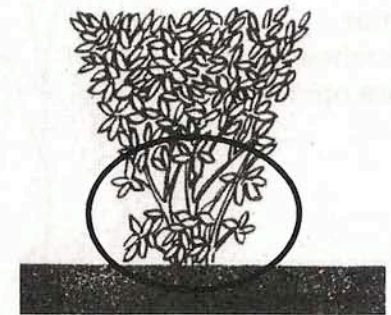


After Pruning

Pruning a Hedge



Base wider than top
increases sun and rain to
the base and thicker foliage



Top wider than base
encourages weak growth
secondary to less sun and
rain to base

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