

Fall is For Pruning!

Pruning changes the growth of a tree. Not only do you have to remove the correct branches, but you need to remove them in the right way. Don't cut unless you are certain the limb should be removed. Consider how you want the tree to look in the upcoming years.

Avoid cutting limbs that are large, the size of a steering wheel, for example. Baseball-sized limbs are usually fine.

To cut off a limb you will make three cuts. The first cut is on the underside of the branch and located a few inches from where the branch and tree meet. This cut will only be halfway through the branch. It is meant to prevent bark stripping when the limb falls. The second cut is on the topside of the limb, located a few inches past the first cut. This cut will go completely through the limb. Make the final cut on the outside edge of the branch collar. It should be a smooth cut without jagged edges. Care should be taken on final cut placement because cutting too far from the branch collar or too close to the trunk will introduce disease to the tree.

Pruning is one way to care for your trees. A little tree maintenance will keep your trees looking great for years.

