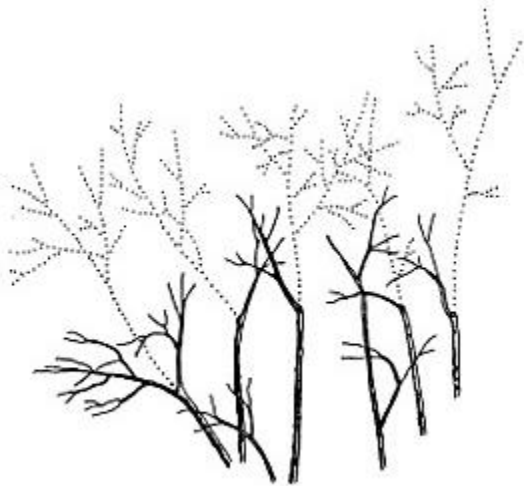


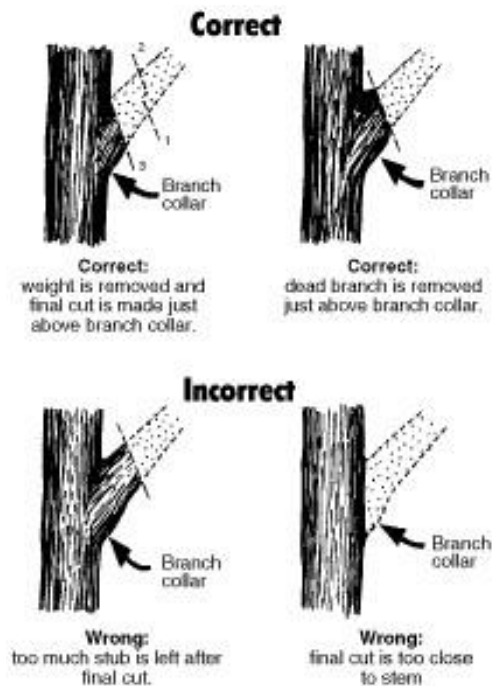
Reduction Cut Pruning

Reduction pruning is used to reduce the size of a tree by decreasing the length of one or many stems and branches. Although this type of pruning can control tree size to a certain degree, it is no substitute for matching the correct tree species with the site when planting.



Reduction pruning shortens a branch by removing a stem back to a lateral branch that is large enough to resist extensive disfunction and decay behind the cut. This is generally interpreted as cutting back to a lateral branch that is at least one-third the diameter of the cut stem.

Pruning cut location is critical to a tree's growth and wound closure. Make pruning cuts just outside the branch collar to avoid damaging the trunk and compromising wound responses. Improper pruning cuts may lead to permanent internal decay. If a large branch must be shortened, prune it back to a secondary branch or a bud. Cuts made between buds or branches may lead to stem decay, sprout production, and misdirected growth. When you are finished pruning, most experts recommend that wound dressing not be used. Despite any claims otherwise, research has shown that wood dressings do not reduce decay or speed wound closure and rarely prevent insect or disease infestations. The tree will compartmentalize the wound on its own over time.



When pruning, cut above the bud that is growing out the side you want the branch to go.

The picture below is an example of how you might use reduction pruning to restrict the size of a plant.

Each year the the cuts are heading back about half of the year's growth of the branch, then after several years cutting the branch back to do the process again.

