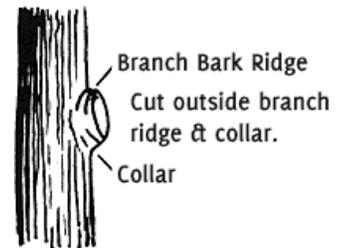
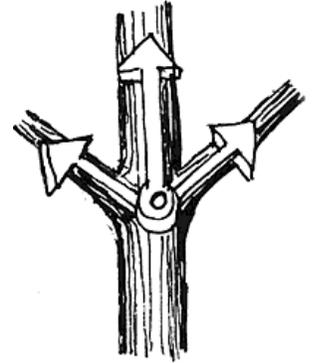




Keys to Good Pruning

The following information is provided by the Arbor Day Foundation as a guideline to properly pruning trees.

- Φ Begin visual inspection at the top of the tree and work downward.
- Φ Use the $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ Rules of Pruning
 - Never remove more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tree's crown in a season
 - Ideally, main side branches should be at least $\frac{1}{3}$ smaller than the diameter of the trunk.
 - For most deciduous (broadleaf) trees, don't prune up from the bottom any more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tree's total height.
 - Where possible, try to encourage side branches that form angles that are $\frac{1}{2}$ off vertical that form "10 o'clock" or "2 o'clock" angles with the trunk.
- Φ For most species, the tree should have a single trunk. Identify the best "leader" and "later" branches before you begin pruning, and remove defective parts before pruning for form.
- Φ Don't worry about protecting pruning cuts. For aesthetics, you may wish to paint large wounds, but it doesn't prevent or reduce decay.
- Φ Keep tools sharp. One-hand pruning shears with curved blades work best on young trees.
- Φ For high branches, use a pole pruner. A major job on a big tree should be done by a professional arborist.
- Φ For larger branches, cut outside the branch bark and ridge collar (swollen area). Do not leave a protruding stub. If the limb is too small to have formed a collar, cut close.
- Φ When simply shortening a small branch, make the cut at a lateral bud or another lateral branch. Favor a bud that will produce a branch that will grow in desired direction (usually outward). The cut should be sharp and clean and made at a slight angle about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch beyond the bud.



Correct Pruning Cut



Too Close



Too Long



Too Slanted

The Town's landscape requirements and tree protection regulations can be found in Article VIII of the Town's Land Use and Development Code, or [online](#). For more information, please call 386-236-2182.

Additional information about the Arbor Day Foundation can be found on-line at www.arborday.org.