

# Care and Pruning

## Year Round Care

### Spring

- Tree planting is good March through May.
- Replenish mulch to a depth of no more than 2 to 3 inches.

### Summer

- Prune spring flowering trees and shrubs.
- New trees may need small amounts of water (1 gallon per trunk inch) every 3 to 5 days during July and August.
- Established trees need a thorough watering once a month during dry periods.
- Do not overwater! Excessive turf irrigation or tree watering can cause foliar diseases and drown trees.
- Inspect trees regularly for insect, disease or mechanical damage.
- Conifers can be transplanted after candle elongation.

### Fall

- Tree planting is good September through November.
- Select tree species that are adaptable to fall season planting.
- Water trees beyond leaf drop, if soil becomes dry, until freezing temperatures arrive.

### Winter

- Inspect trees for branch and structural problems.
- Most trees can be pruned, except for spring blooming trees.
- Water evergreens when winter temperatures warm to above freezing.
- Develop landscape designs and tree locations.

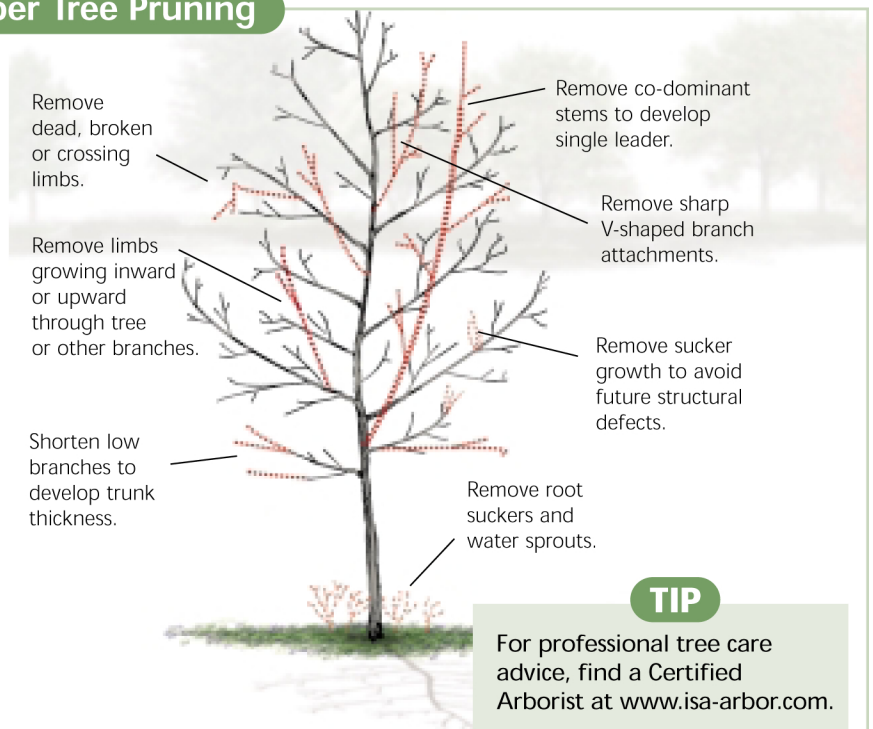
## How Much Water?



The amount of water given to newly-planted trees should be carefully measured by slowly applying 1 gallon of water for each diameter inch of trunk every 5 to 7 days when there has been less than half an inch of rain during that week. Hot, dry periods, sandy soils or Southern climates may require watering every 3 to 5 days to keep soil sufficiently moist. Containerized trees grown in bark mix readily dry out and may require frequent light waterings throughout the week during summer months. Otherwise, do not water trees daily or drown young trees with long soakings or turf irrigation.

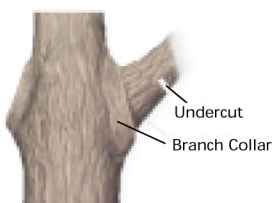
## Proper Tree Pruning

- Limit pruning to dead or broken limbs for the first three years since foliage helps regenerate the root system.
- Wound dressing is not necessary.
- All pruning should be done at bud or branch junctions.
- Never prune any tree close to electrical lines.
- Always maintain the upper two-thirds of the tree in branches and foliage whenever possible.
- Never remove more than 25% of the tree's foliage in one season.
- Never top a tree. Leave a stub or remove the branch collar by a flush cut.
- Always disinfect pruning tools with rubbing alcohol, Lysol or Listerine between trees (or between cuts on infected trees) to prevent the spread of disease.

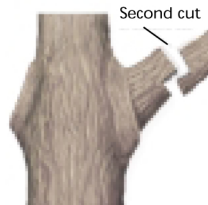


## Three-Step Approach for Proper Pruning

- 1.** Undercut 12-24" up from the branch collar. This stops the bark from tearing.



- 2.** Make the second cut from the top all the way through the branch, 2-3" above cut #1.



- 3.** The final cut should be just beyond the branch collar. Support the stub so it does not tear the bark.

