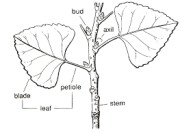


Pruning Terms

by Dick Post 2003

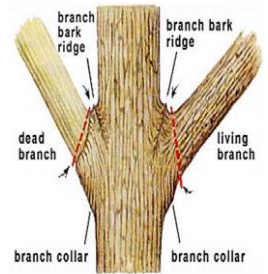
- **Branch Axil:**

The angle formed where a branch attaches to another branch on a woody plant.



- **Branch Bark Ridge:**

The ridge of bark that forms on a branch crotch extending partially around the stem resulting from the stem and branch tissues growing against one another. It is often a darker color than the surrounding bark. The top arrow points to the branch bark ridge.

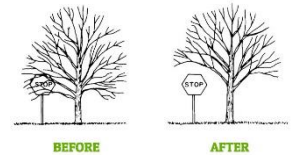


- **Branch Collar:**

A bulge at the base of a branch where it attaches to the trunk. It is formed by the annual growth of overlapping layers of branch and stem tissues.

- **Crown Raising:**

The removal of lower branches to provide clearance for pedestrians, vehicles, building, lines of sight, and vistas.



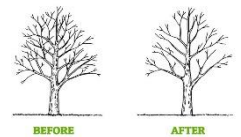
- **Crown Reduction Pruning:**

The pruning method used to reduce the height of a tree. It is important to cut limbs back to laterals that are at least one-third larger in diameter than the diameter of the limb being removed.



- **Crown Thinning:**

The method of pruning that increases light penetration and air movement through the crown of a tree by selective removal of branches. No more than one-quarter of the canopy should be removed.



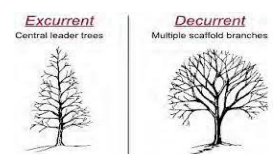
- **Callus:**

The bark-like growth that covers up pruning cuts. It consists of lignified, differentiated tissues produced as a response to the shock of wounding. It is often referred to as healed-over.



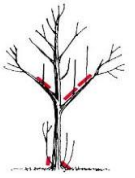
- **Decurrent Trees:**

Trees that don't have a central trunk because of weak apical dominance. These trees have many lateral branches that compete with the central stem, resulting in a globe shaped crown. Maples, oaks, and elms are examples of decurrent trees.



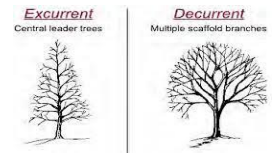
- **Epicormic Sprout:**

A shoot that arises from latent or adventitious buds. These are also known as water sprouts when they occur on stems and branches, as suckers when they sprout from the base of trees. Radical pruning (topping) or severe defoliation often results in the formation of epicormic shoots on older wood.



- **Excurrent Trees:**

Trees with strong apical dominance. These trees have a strong central stem and pyramidal shape, and the lateral branches rarely compete for dominance.



- **Flush Cuts:**

Pruning cuts that are made between the branch bark ridge and/or the branch collar, and the trunk, causing unnecessary injury to stem tissue that is slow to heal.



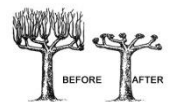
- **Included Bark:**

The bark enclosed between the branches that is formed when branches form a narrow crotch. This bark forms a wedge between the branches causing a weak attachment.



- **Pollarding:**

Originally used as a means of collecting firewood without having to cut down the tree, this old practice removes all of the previous year's growth on the trained branches annually, resulting in a flush of slender shoots and branches each spring. Pollarding is still used in some formal gardens.



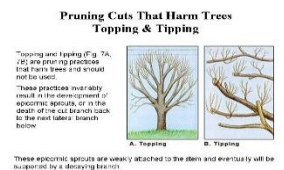
- **Stub Cuts:**

Pruning cuts made too far outside the branch bark ridge or branch collar. When a stub cut is made, the remaining portion of the branch will die and become an entrance for insects and disease. Stub cuts are also called 'hat racks'.



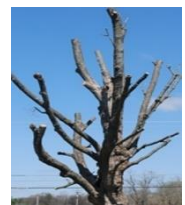
- **Tipping:**

The cutting of branches at right angles leaving long stubs in the top of the tree that is a poor maintenance practice used to control the size of tree crowns.



- **Topping:**

A harmful maintenance practice often used to control the size of trees involving the indiscriminate cutting of branches and stems at right angles that leaves a few long stubs attached to the trunk. Synonyms include rounding-over, heading-back, dehorning, capping and hat-racking. Topping is often improperly referred to as pollarding.



- **Topiary:**

A plant that is pruned and trained into a desired geometric or animal shape.



- **Woundwood:**

Another term for the callus tissue formed when a tree is wounded by natural causes or pruning.

