

*Welcome to. . .*

# Pruning Trees

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*Presented by:*

Joel Kangas

Good to Grow, Brandon MN

\*University MN Extension Master Gardener

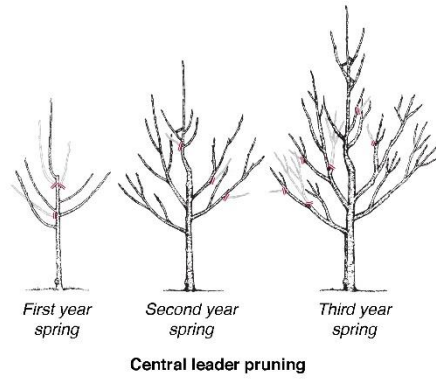
\*MN Tree Advocate

# What We'll Cover

- Why Prune
- Tools
- Timing
- Proper Pruning

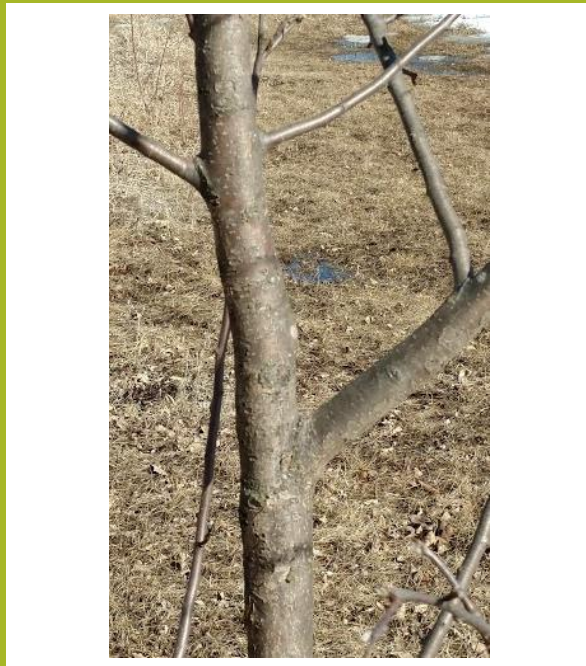
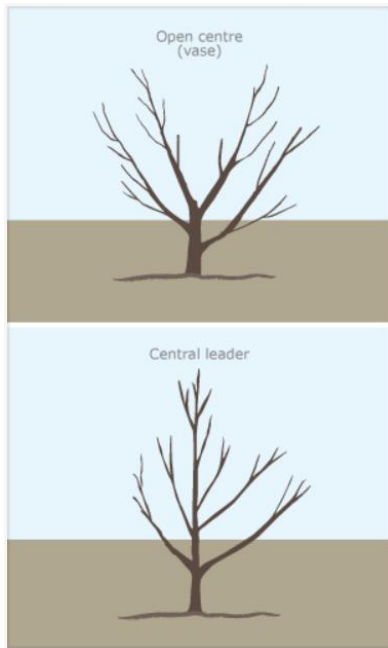
**WHY?**

A vertical white line is positioned to the right of the word 'WHY?'. It extends from approximately the top of the 'Y' down to the bottom of the 'Y', centered vertically relative to the word.



## Why Prune Your Trees

- Form
- Health
- Productivity

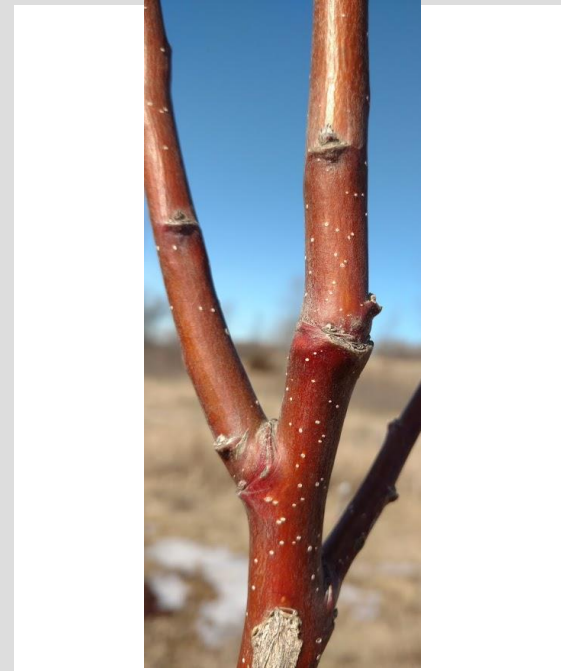


# Form

- Control size
- Balance
- Esthetics
- Develop a strong framework
  - First 3 years are critical
  - Wide-open canopy with strong branching
    - Open Center
    - Central Leader
    - Combination

# Health of the Plant

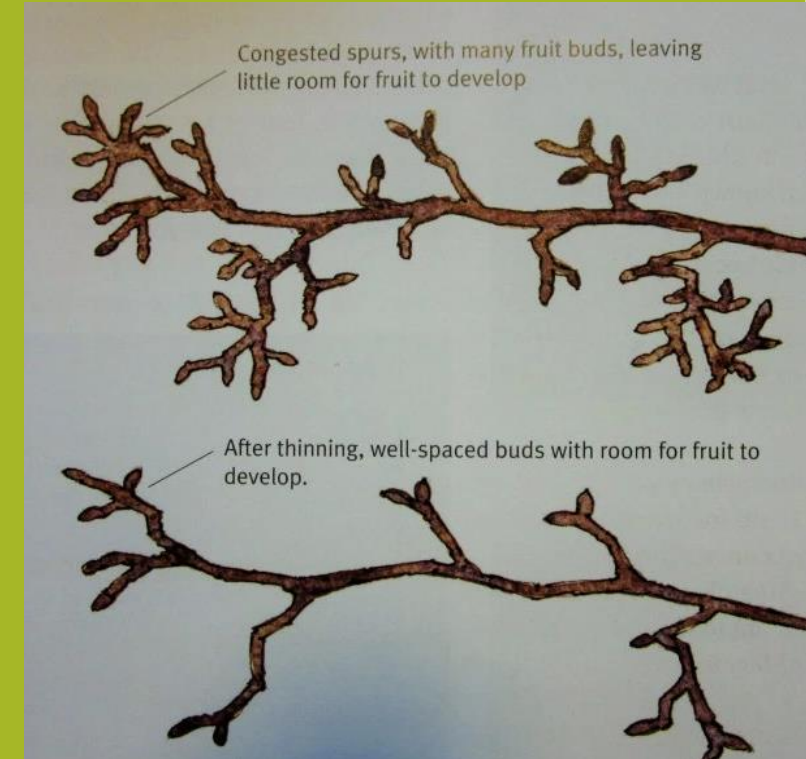
- Strong Branches
  - Narrow crotch angle
- Open Canopy
  - Sunlight
  - Air Circulation
- Remove Damage
  - Compartmentalization
- Remove Disease
- Rejuvenate Growth
- Limit Wind Resistance





# Productivity

Horizontal Branching  
Secondary Laterals  
Fruit Buds  
Branch Spacing  
Sun Light  
Fruit quality  
Fruit Buds  
Rejuvenate Spurs  
Buds on the ground  
Ease of Access



**TOOLS**





# Pruning Knife

- Folding
- Curved Blade
- Used for
  - Cleaning up rough cuts
  - Hard to reach spots



# Pruners

- By-Pass
- Anvil
- Ratcheting





# Loppers

- Ratchet
- Normal
- Used for
  - Bigger branches
  - Higher branches



## Pruning Saw

- Hand Pruning Saw
  - Folding
- Pole Saw
  - Lopper
- Used for bigger branches
  - May require cleanup with the knife

**TIMING**



## Dormant

- Late Winter/Early Spring
  - Less Disease
  - Less “bleeding”
  - Easier to see the form
  - **Not Ornamental Flowering**

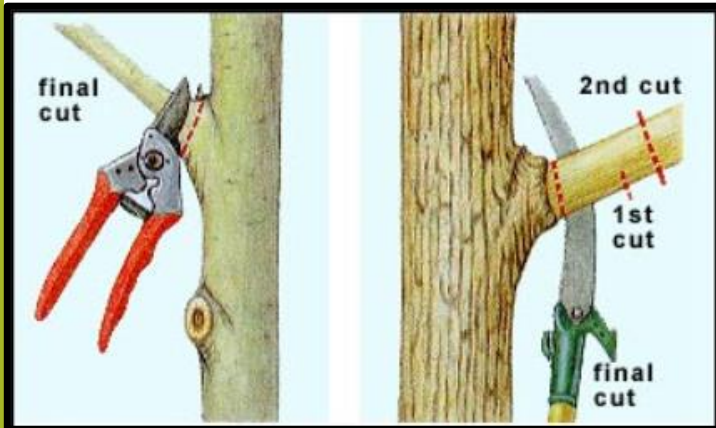
## Summer

- Damage Mitigation
- Canopy Forming
- Training
- Suckers/Water Sprouts
- Competing Leaders
- **Not Oak Trees – Burr Oak Blight**

# PROPER PRUNING

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## Thinning cut



## Heading cut



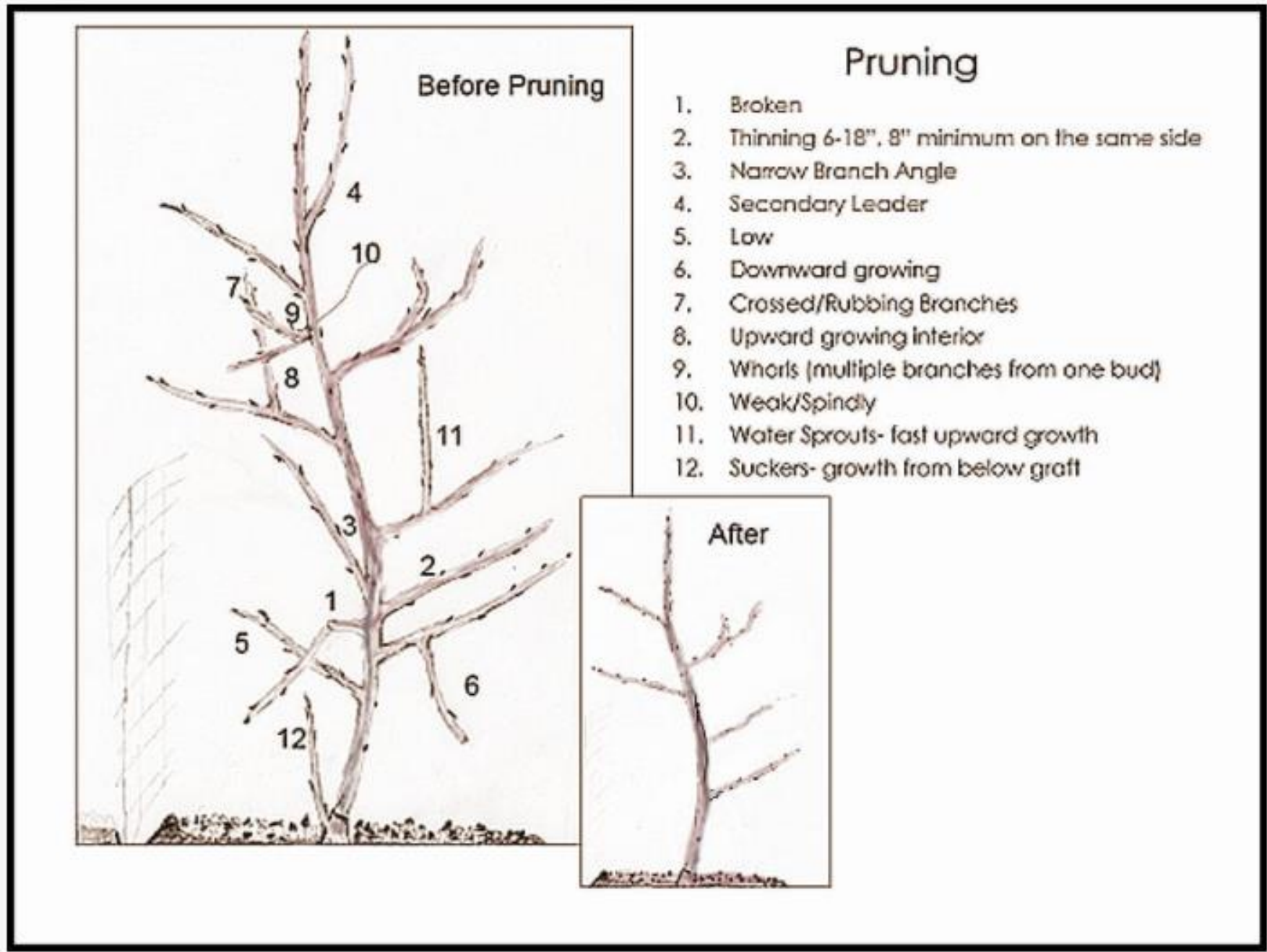
## 2 Types of Cuts

- Thinning Cuts
  - Full Branch
    - Branch Collar
- Heading Cuts
  - Part of the Branch
    - $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above bud
    - Same angle as the bud or straight



# At Planting

- Base Form
- Encourage Side Branching
- Competing Leaders



# Pruning Fundamentals

- Do not use pruning paint
- Clean cutters between trees and cuts if you suspect any disease
- Keep tool sharp, oiled, and clean
- Never take more than 1/4 of the branches in one cutting
  - Heavy pruning promotes water sprouts
  - Spread renovating out over several years
- Assess the tree before taking any branches
- Know the science but use an artists touch
- Don't be afraid
- Clean-up ragged cuts
- Dispose of diseased wood in the trash

***Thanks for Coming!***  
***For More Info, please visit:***



***\*Sign up for our Healthy Grow Reminders by emailing  
info@goodtogrowtrees.com***

- Ask a U of M Extension Master Gardner or MN Tree Advocate
- References & Helpful Information Sources:
  - <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/fruit/>
  - <http://www.fruitedge.umn.edu/>
  - <http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/>
  - <http://hort.uwex.edu>