



Winter-- Time to Prune and Plan

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Extension Master Gardeners are trained volunteers of Virginia Cooperative Extension



Our purpose is to educate and communicate sound environmental and horticultural practices to the community using research based information from our land grant colleges -Virginia Tech and Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension
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How much pruning do you want to do?

- *Formal or natural style*
- *Right plant in the right place*

Both formal and natural landscaping



More formal - a Japanese garden



Natural Landscape- use of plants that need minimal pruning equals a Sustainable Landscape



Plant selection for a new home determines how it will look in the future



Know mature size of plants before buying

Boxwood:

English 3-5' tall

American 6-20'

Korean 'WinterGem' 2'

Viburnum:

Tinus Viburnum 8-10' tall

Chindo viburnum 15- 20'

Hollies:

Helleri holly 4-5' tall

Dwarf Burford 6-8'

Foster holly 25'

Right plant - Right place

Tree is planted too
close to the building



Why Prune?

Proper pruning enhances the beauty and health of landscape trees and shrubs

Reasons for pruning



- Training the plant
- Maintain health
- Improve quality
- Prevent injury
- Control size

Health

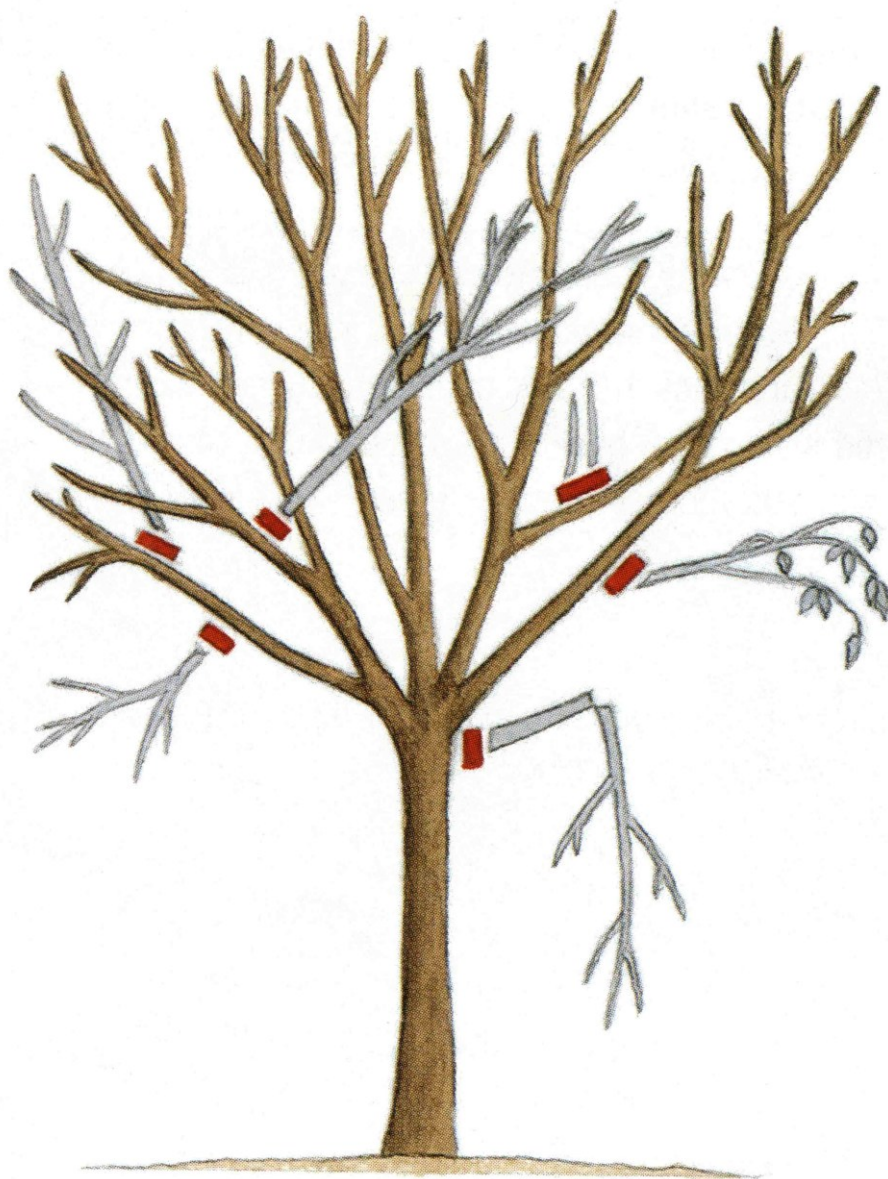
THE FOUR D'S
DEAD
DAMAGED
DISEASED
DANGEROUS

Remove
crossing
or rubbing
branches

Improve light and
air circulation



REMOVING THE THREE DS



Landscape

Control natural
shape and size

Restore
symmetry and
balance

Direct growth in
young plants



Value

Increase flowering or fruit

Rejuvenate a shrub

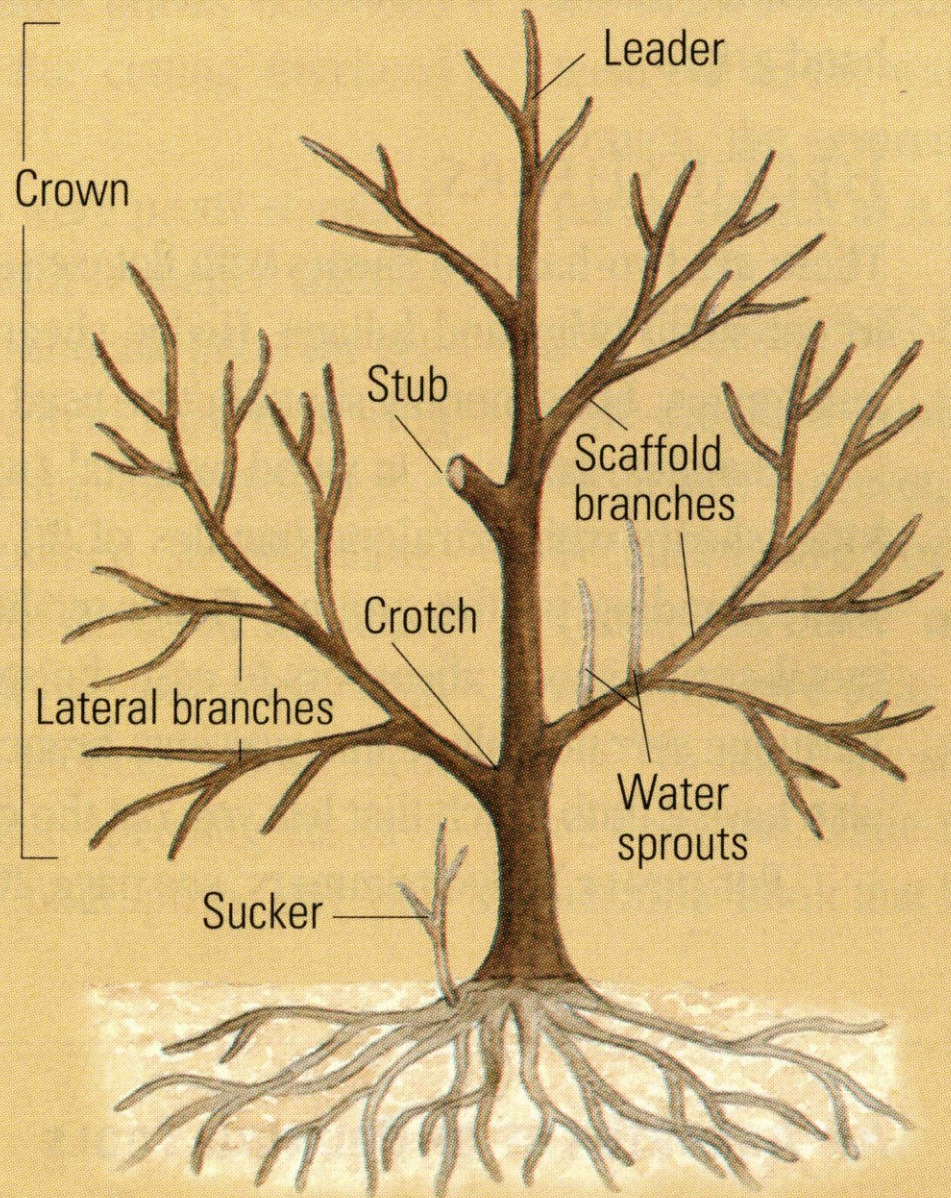
Increase safety

Improve visibility



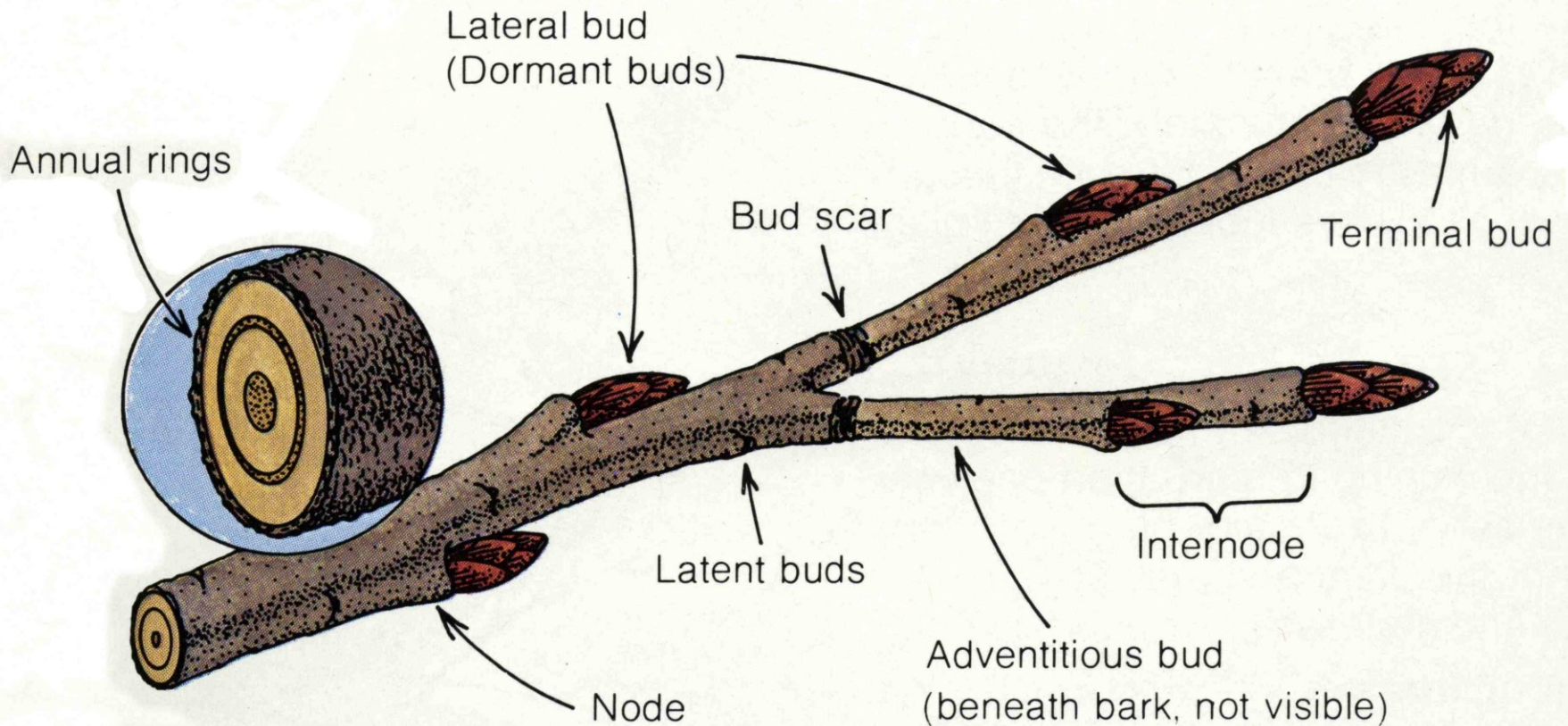
What do you need to
know?

Learn about plant parts before pruning

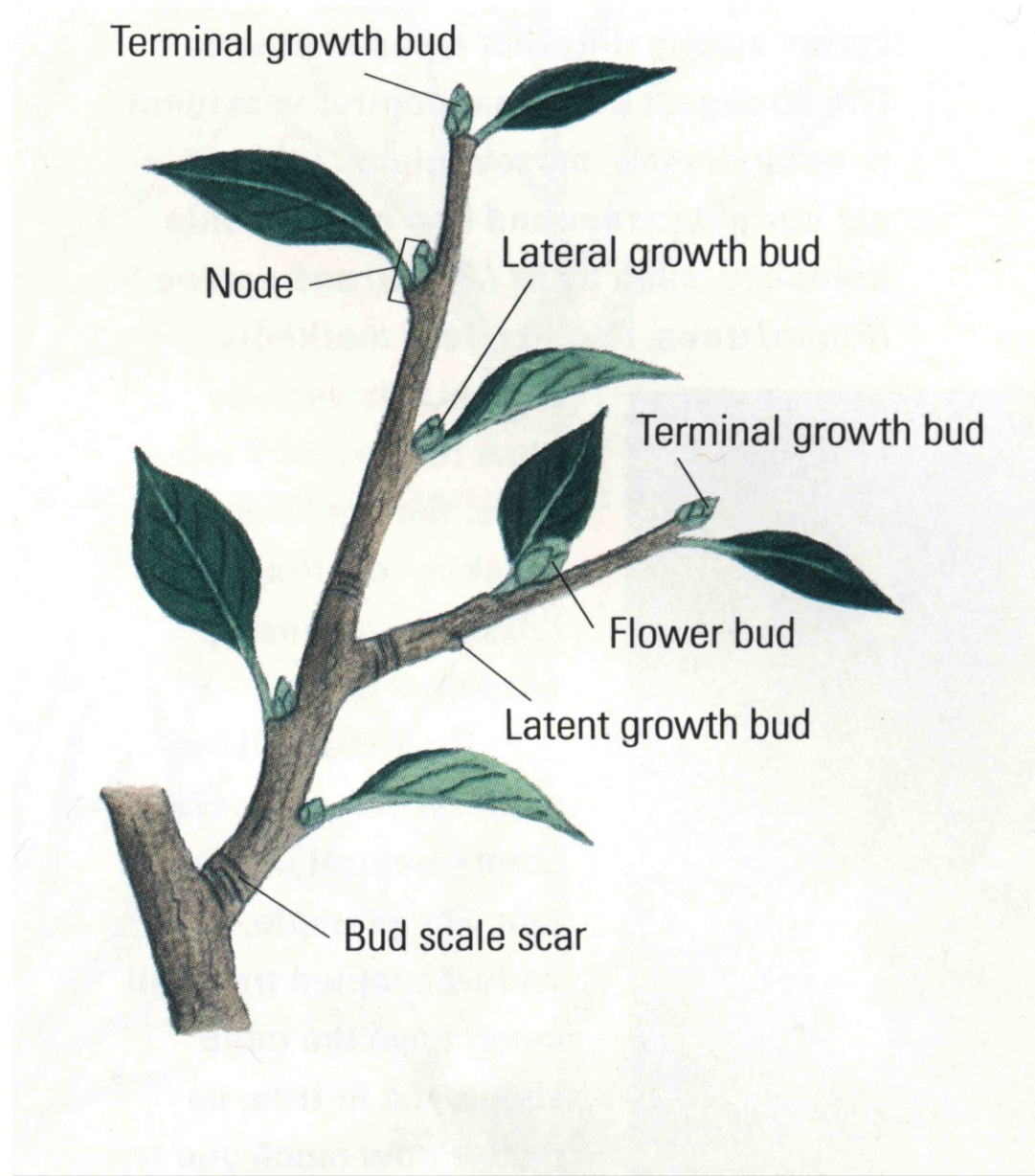


When you know the branch parts,
you will know where to make a pruning cut

Buds



Parts of a branch in leaf

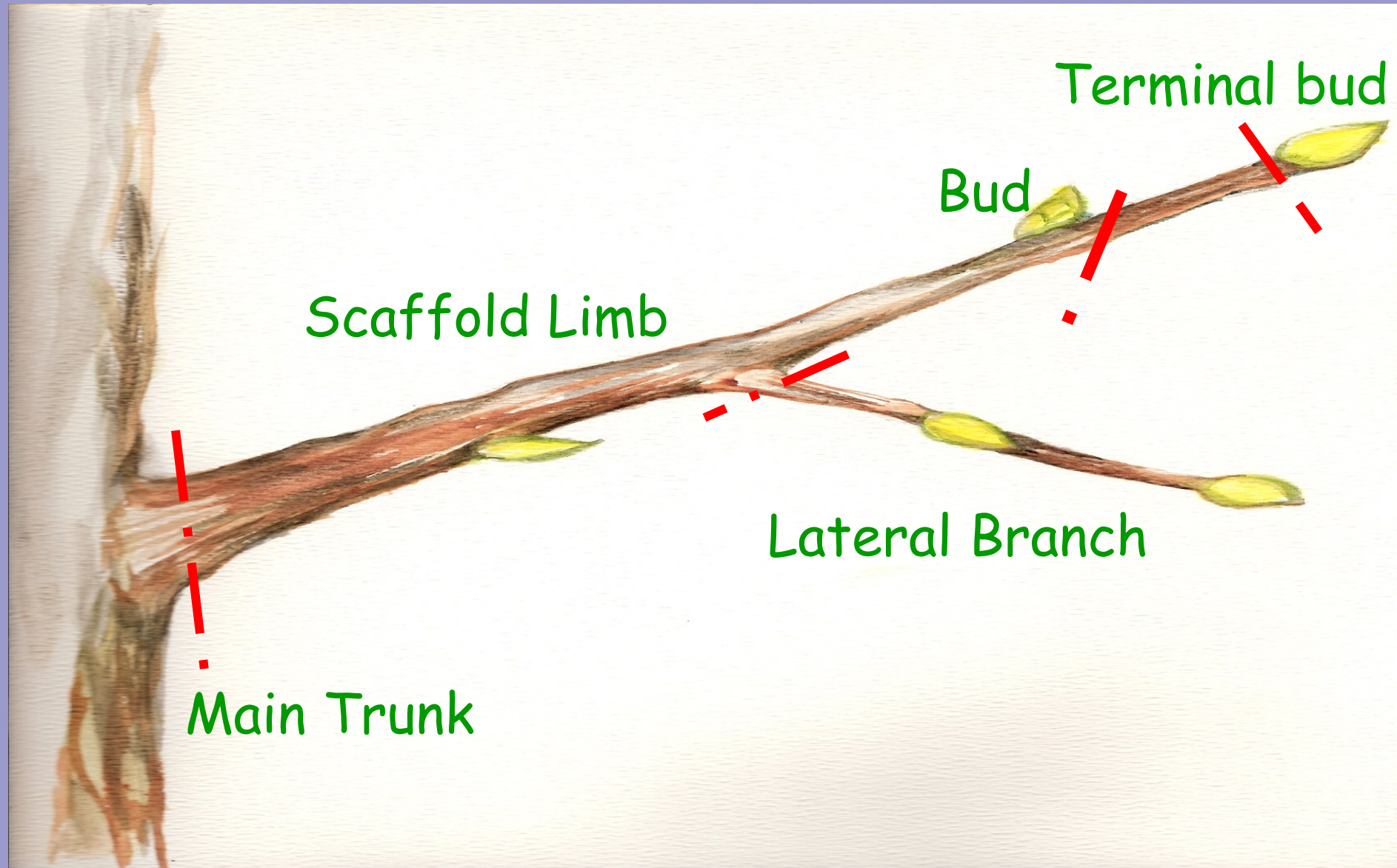


Pruning cuts

Hold your tool so the cutting blade is close to remaining plant part



Where to cut

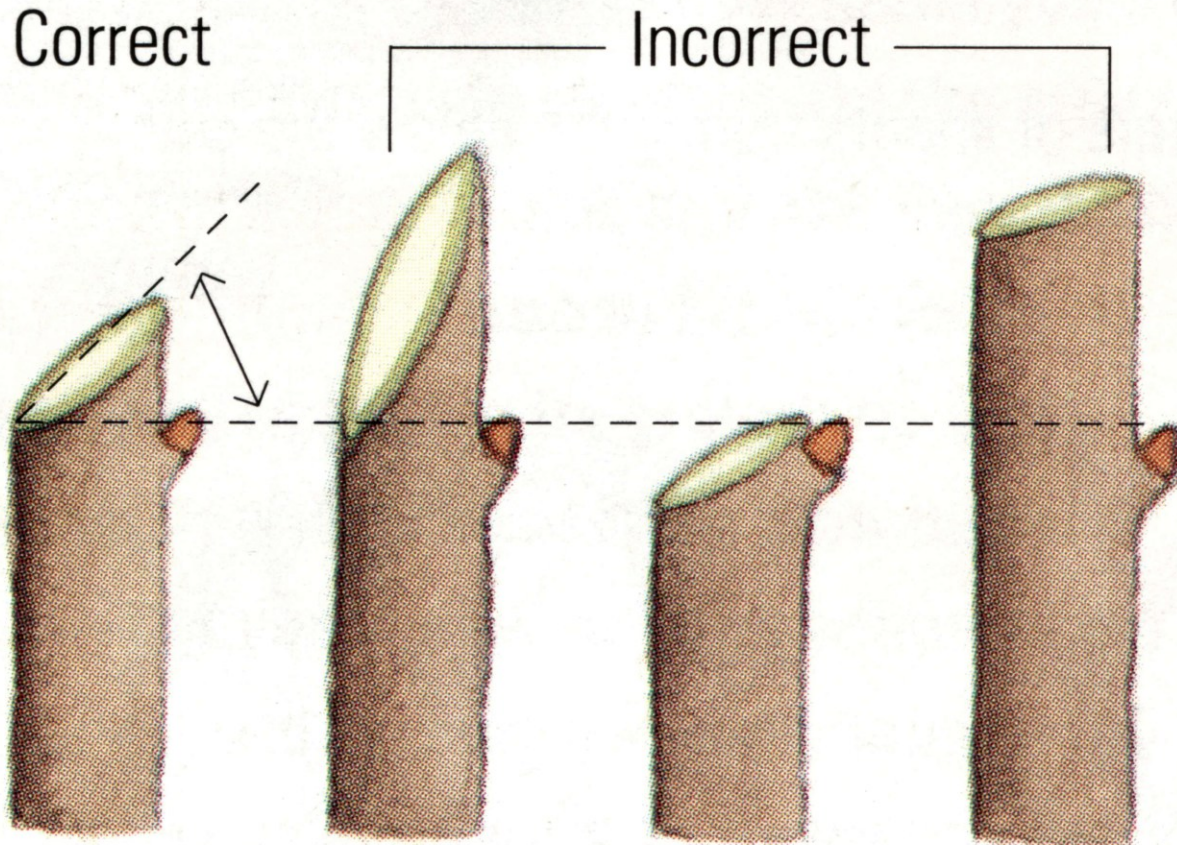


Avoid cuts between nodes



How to make a pruning cut

CUTTING ABOVE A BUD



45° angle

Too angular

Too low

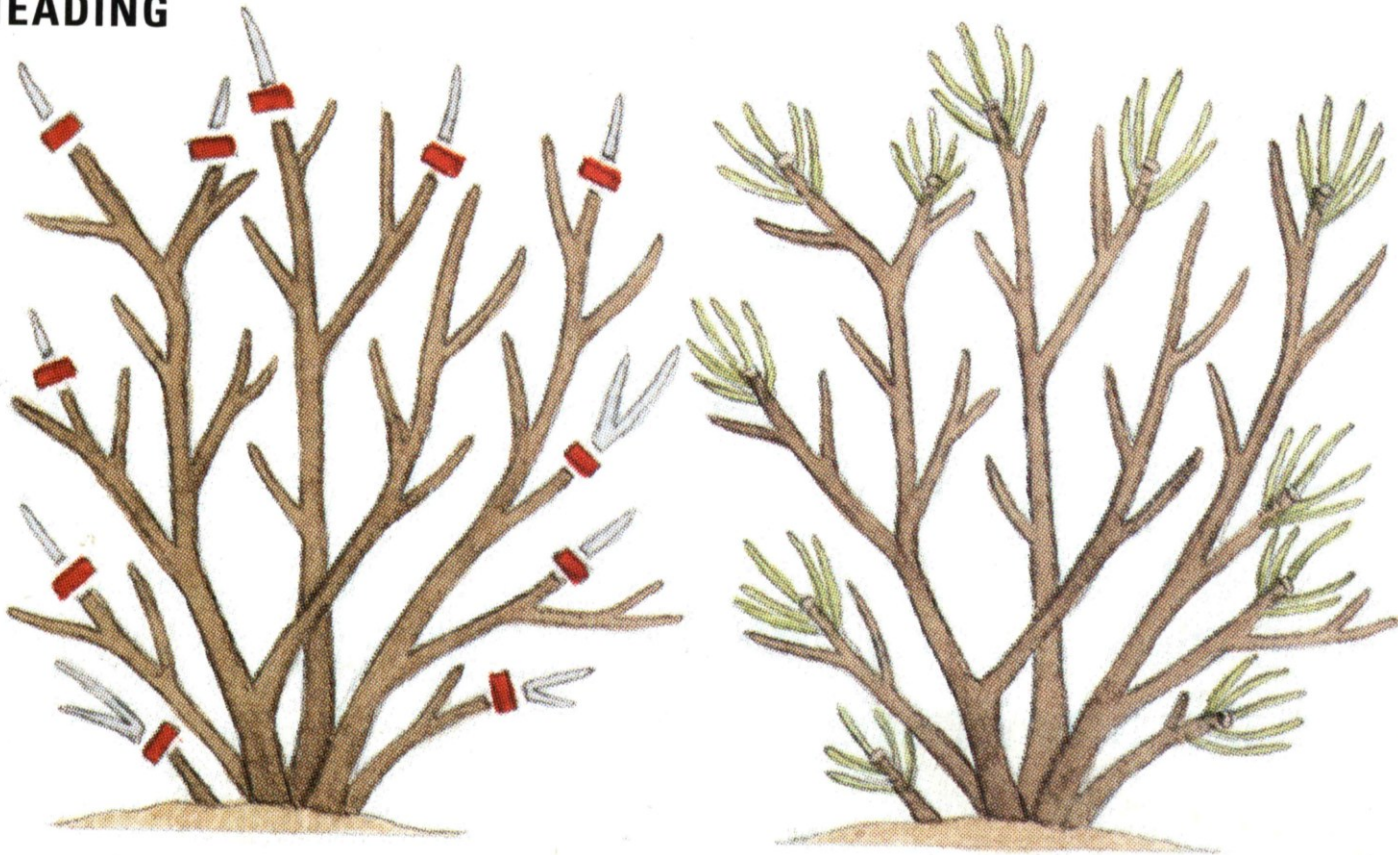
Too high



a 45 degree
cut above a
bud

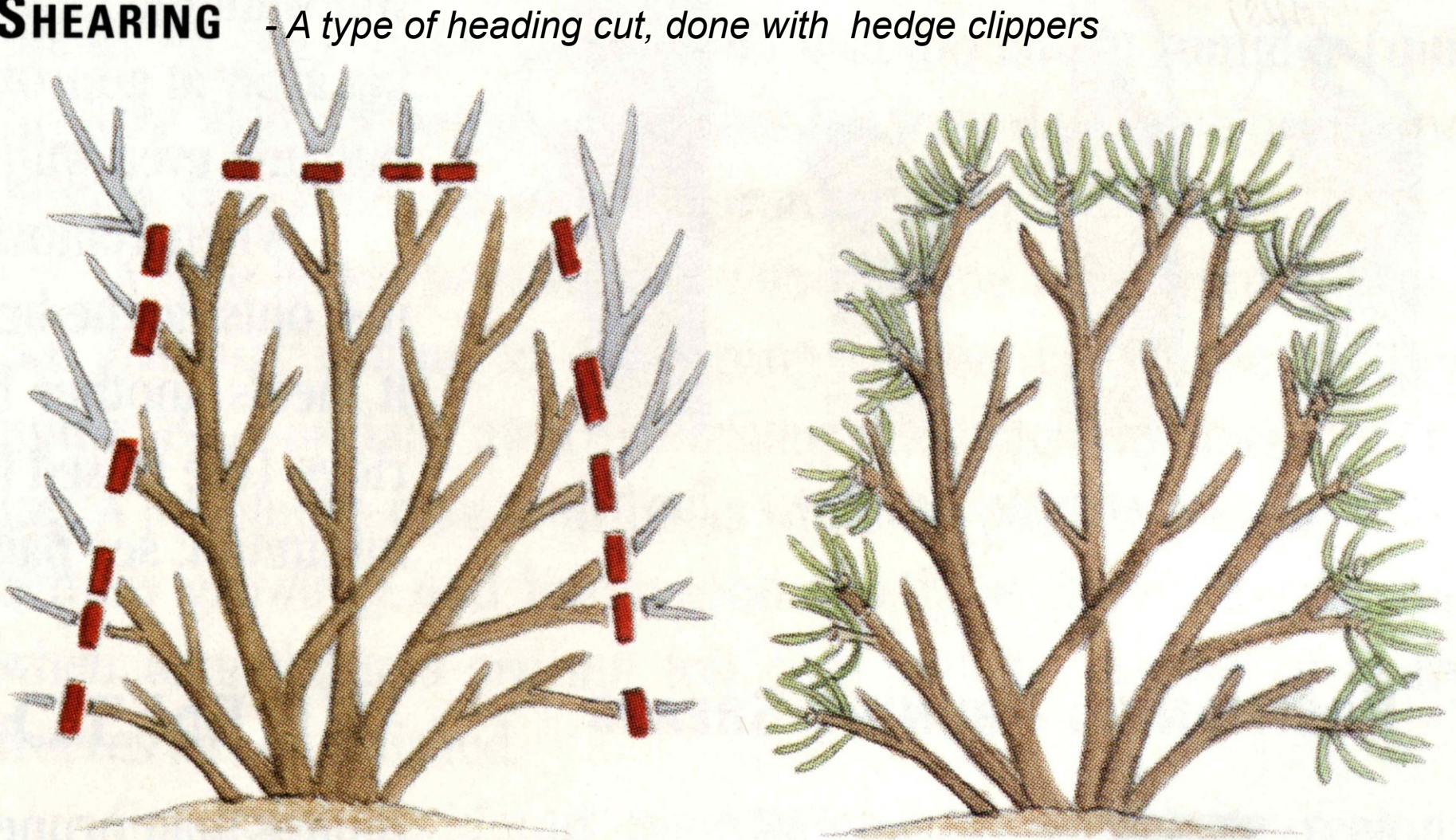
There are two basic types of pruning cuts: **Heading cuts** and Thinning cuts

HEADING



Heading cuts produce a clusters of shoots from buds below the cuts.

SHEARING - *A type of heading cut, done with hedge clippers*



Shearing, which is really random heading, produces an outer layer of dense, twiggy growth from buds below the cuts.

Shearing - random heading cuts



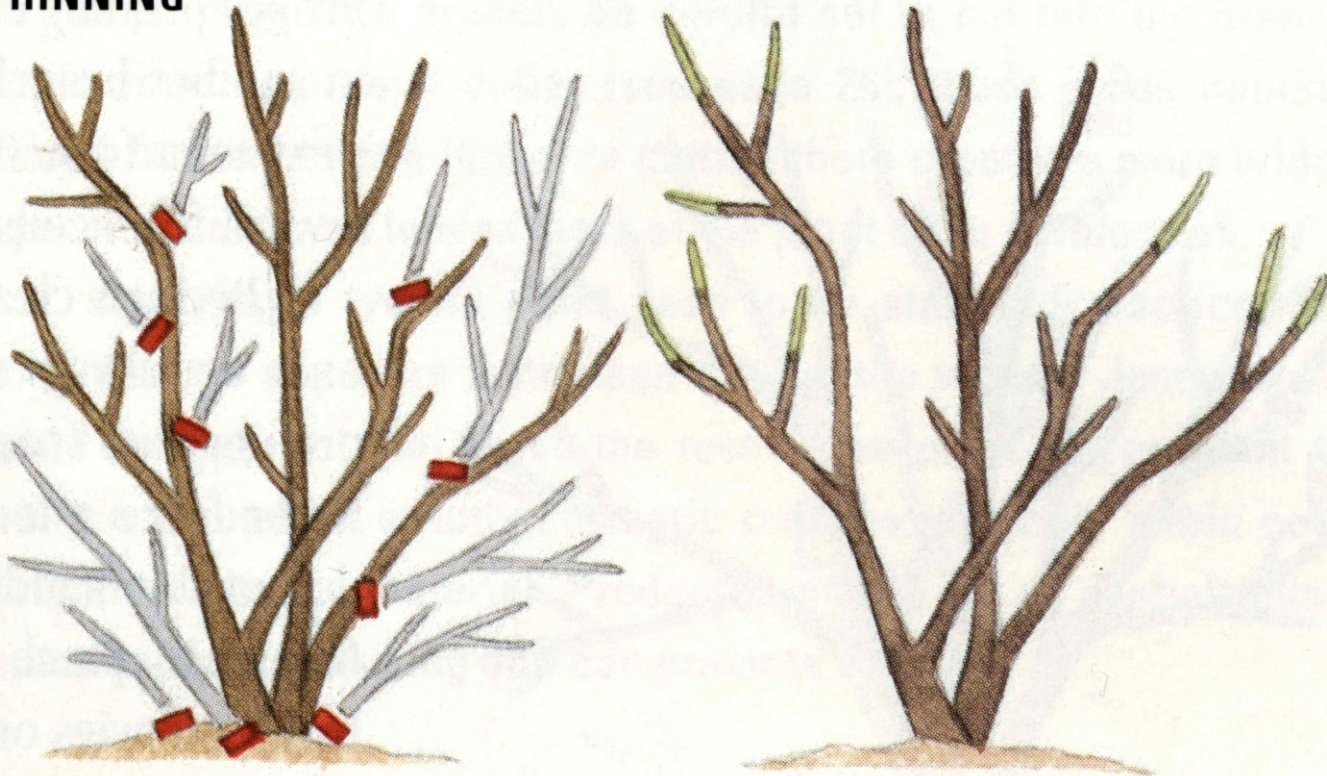
Shearing problem - close -up



There are two basic types of pruning cuts: Heading cuts and **Thinning cuts**

TYPES OF PRUNING CUTS

THINNING



Thinning cuts open up a plant and cause the least amount of regrowth.

A Cleyera thinned to let light and air in





*Holly
improperly
pruned*

Bad cuts leave bark tears and stubs



Renewal Pruning

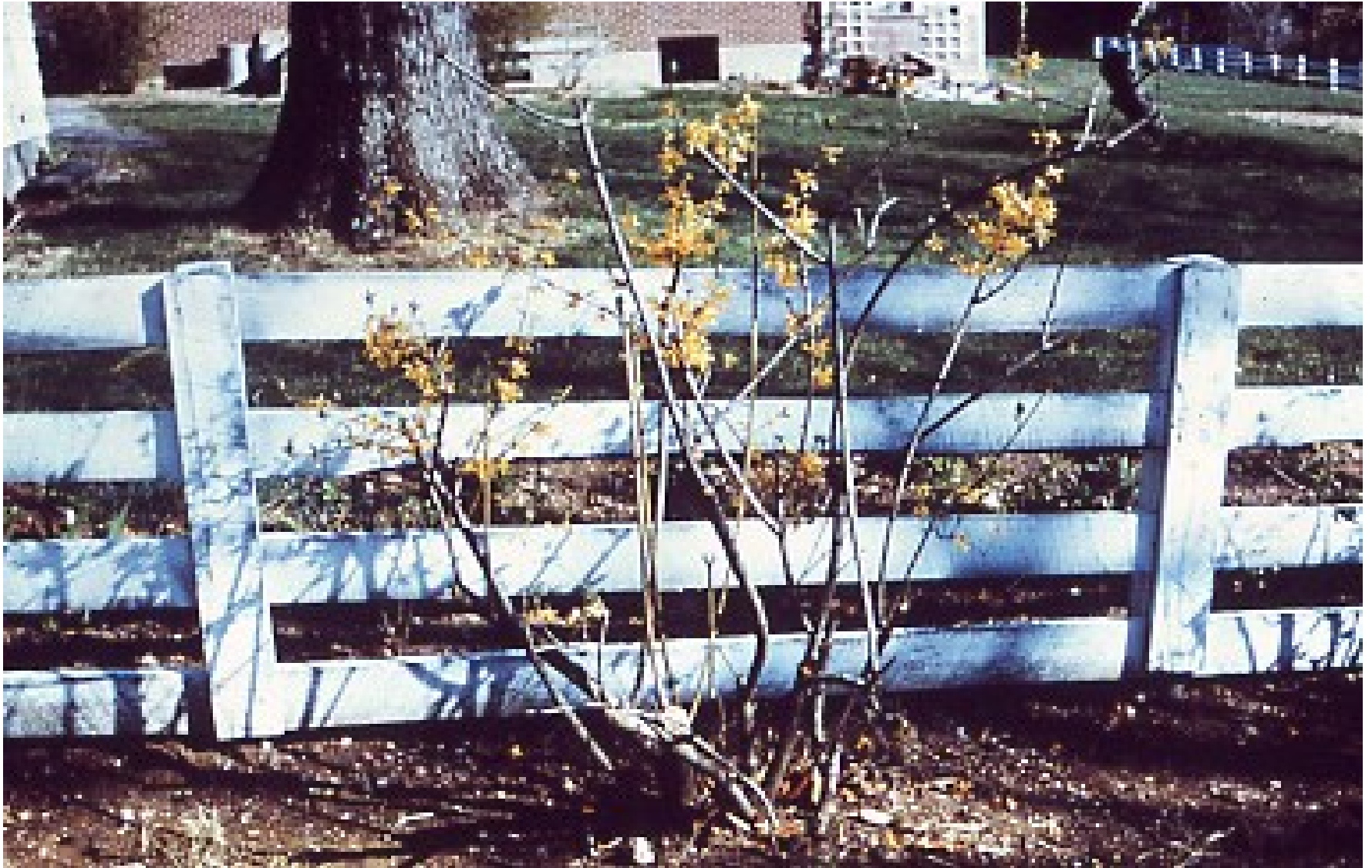
Cut 1/3 of stems to 2-3" from ground;
Shorten remaining stems by 1/3 to 2/3 of their length



An overgrown FORSYTHIA SHRUB benefits from
RENEWAL PRUNING



PRUNED



Nandina - in need of renewal pruning





Pruning to Rejuvenate a Shrub

Some overgrown or neglected shrubs can tolerate hard pruning to rejuvenate them

Carissa hollies - pruned to rejuvenate the shrubs

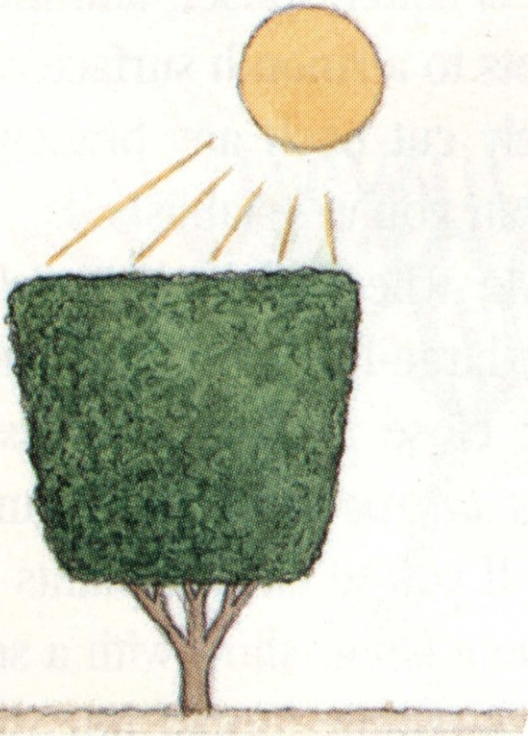


Carissa Hollies two years later

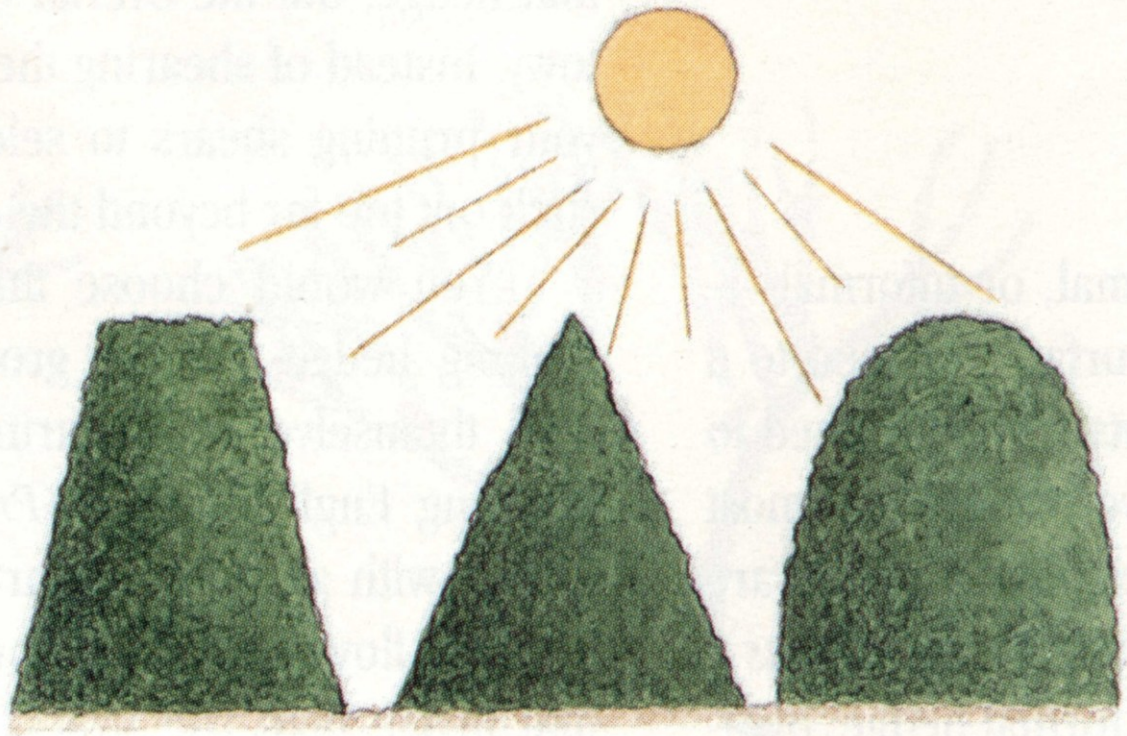


How to cut Hedges

SLOPING THE SIDES OF A HEDGE



WRONG



RIGHT

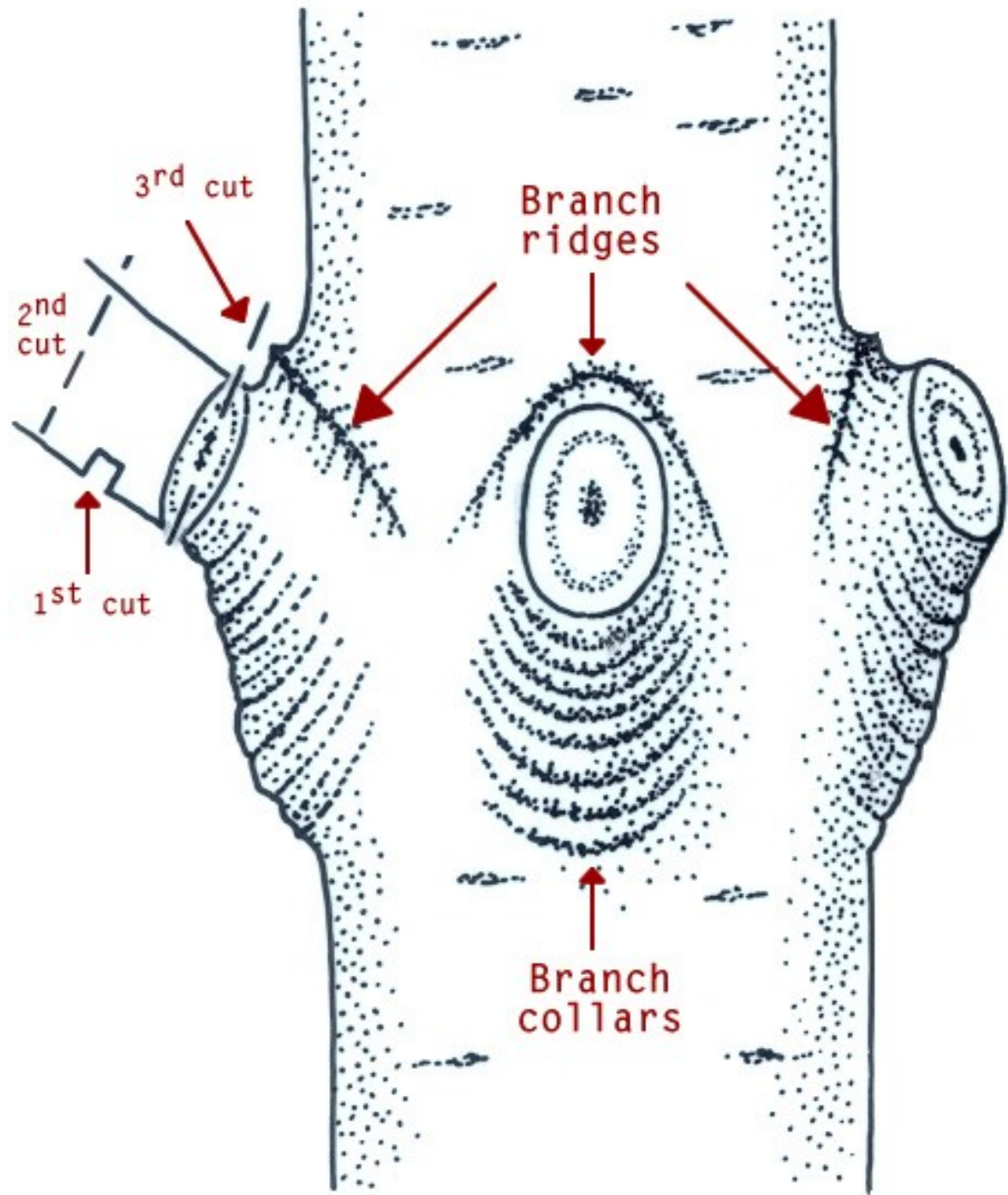
Improper vs. Proper Hedges



Foster's Holly

How to
cut a limb

1-2-3 cuts





FIRST CUT



SECOND CUT



SECOND CUT
AND IT SPLITS AWAY



FINAL CUT

TRIM TO THE
BRANCH COLLAR



Improper cut

Flush cut inhibits sealing of the wound and is susceptible to pests and disease



CROWN LIFTING



CROWN THINNING



CROWN REDUCTION



THREE PROBLEM-SOLVING PROCEDURES

LEFT: Crown lifting consists of removing lower branches to allow for activities, traffic, or plantings beneath them.

MIDDLE: Crown thinning opens up a crowded canopy, allowing more sunlight and air to penetrate and more wind to pass through.

RIGHT: Crown reduction lets you decrease the size of a tree without topping it and destroying its natural form.



Needle Type - Conifers



* Remove rubbing branches

* Do not remove growth past the dead/brown wood

* When young, prune candles to form dense growth.

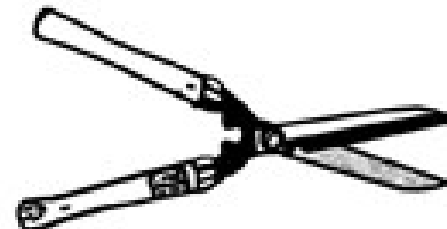
Tools



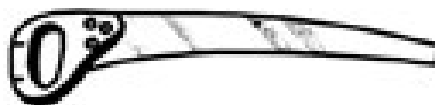
The right tool is needed for the pruning job



Bow Saw



Hedge Shears



Pruning Saw with D Grip



Lopping Shears



Pruning Saw with Crescent Grip



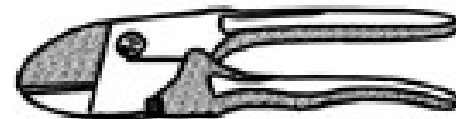
Combination Pole Saw-Pruner



Folding Saw



Draw Cut or Scissor-Action Pruners



Anvil or Snap Cut Pruners

How does your plant grow?

- * Shrubs and trees have different patterns of growth
- * Study your plants - how do they branch?
- * Are the leaves large or small - opposite or alternately arranged
- * Are the nodes close together or widely spaced apart
- * The more you learn about your plants, the more you will know how to prune them

*Deer have not learned to prune properly....
but you will !!!!!*



The Virginia Tech pruning calendars list the best time to prune

Pruning Handbook

Shrubs Pruning Calendar

Deciduous Tree Pruning Calendar

Evergreen Tree Pruning Calendar - pub. 430-461.

VCE Calendar for Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs
for the Peninsula

Pruning Crape Myrtles

Basics and Tools

Guide to Successful Pruning, Pruning Deciduous Trees

Guide to Successful Pruning, Pruning Evergreen Trees

Guide to Successful Pruning, Stop Topping Trees

Guide to Successful Pruning: Pruning Shrubs

Available on our website: www.jccwmg.org

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