

7 Steps For Training Young Trees

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Adapted from Dr. Larry Costello, University of California Extension

Not for general distribution. To be used only with training class.

Step 1: Identify and subordinate or remove super dominant branches.

Step 2: Prune to leave one central leader.

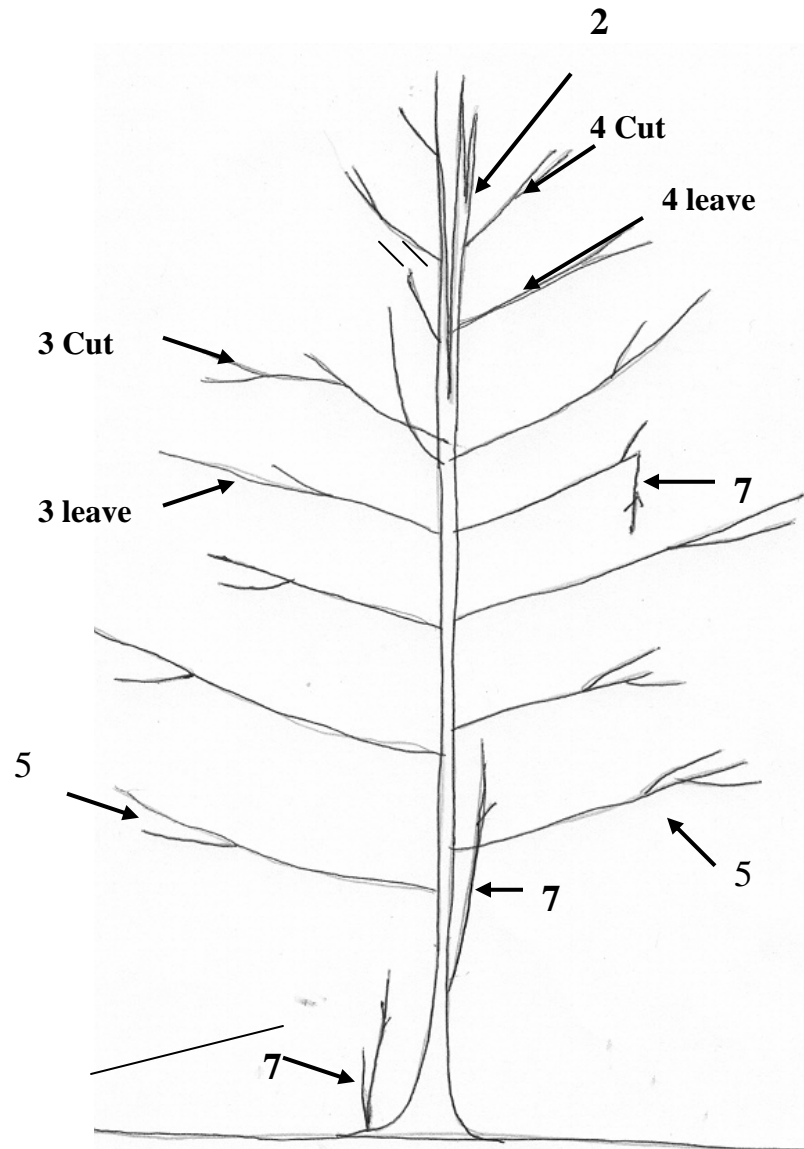
Step 3: Identify lowest permanent scaffold branch and prune to expose it to full sun and eliminate competition. Establish high enough to avoid land use problems. Clearance for truck traffic, contact with roll over protection device, etc.

Step 4: Identify permanent scaffold branches and prune to expose it to full sun and eliminate competition. Leave 18-24 inches between branches, leave only 1 permanent branch per node,

Step 5: Limb up temporary branches. Remove branches from bottom 1/3 of tree

Step 6: (Municipal step) subordinate branches that interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Only the portion that interferes with traffic, be conservative.

Step 7: Remove dead and broken branches from upper canopy and water sprouts and suckers from root and trunk



Stops:

Stop pruning when you have removed $\frac{1}{4}$ of the leaf area of the tree.

Stop pruning when you have removed the branches from the lower $\frac{1}{3}$ of the tree.

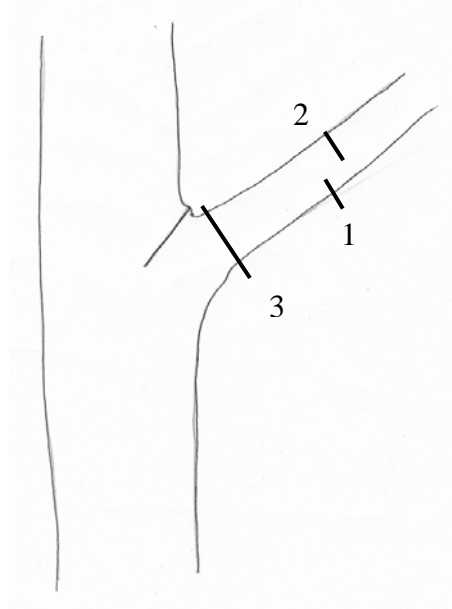
Proper Pruning Cuts

Remove as much of the limb wood as possible without cutting the trunk wood!

Cut 1 Under cut: Under cut 1/3 of the way through the limb.

Cut 2 Top cut: Move out the branch from the under cut a distance equal to 1/3 the diameter of the limb and cut down until the branch falls off.

Cut 3 Final cut: Begin final cut just outside the branch bark ridge and finish just outside the trunk collar swell. If trunk collar swell is not visible, begin cut just outside the branch bark ridge and cut 90° to the limb. If branch angle is too tight to get the saw between the trunk and branch start from the trunk collar swell and cut to just outside the branch bark ridge.



Cut to Subordinate a Limb

The cut must be made at a lateral at least 1/3 the diameter of the limb being cut!

Cut 1 Under cut: Under cut 1/3 of the way through the limb.

Cut 2 Top cut: Move out the branch from the under cut a distance equal to 1/3 the diameter of the limb and cut down until the branch falls off.

Cut 3 Final cut: Begin final cut just outside the Branch bark Ridge and cut down and away.

