

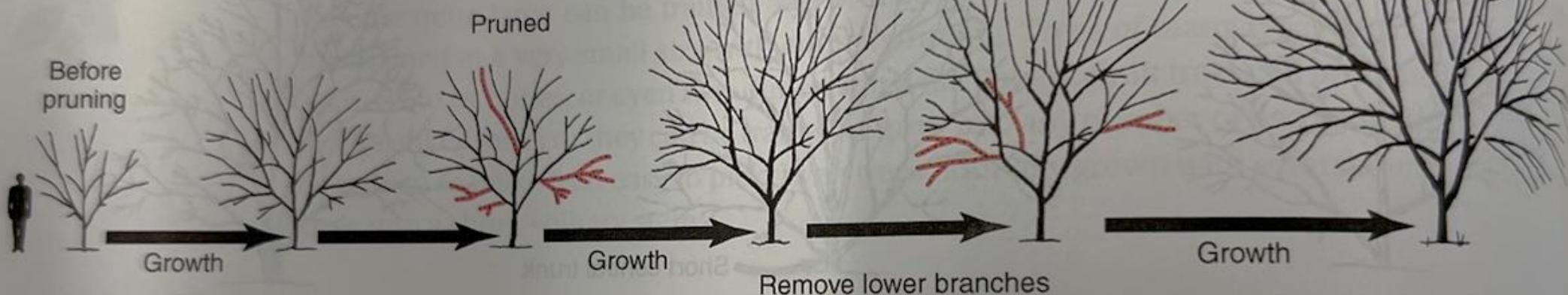
Pruning Native Trees for Healthy Growth

+ Take care of your tools, and they will take care of you +

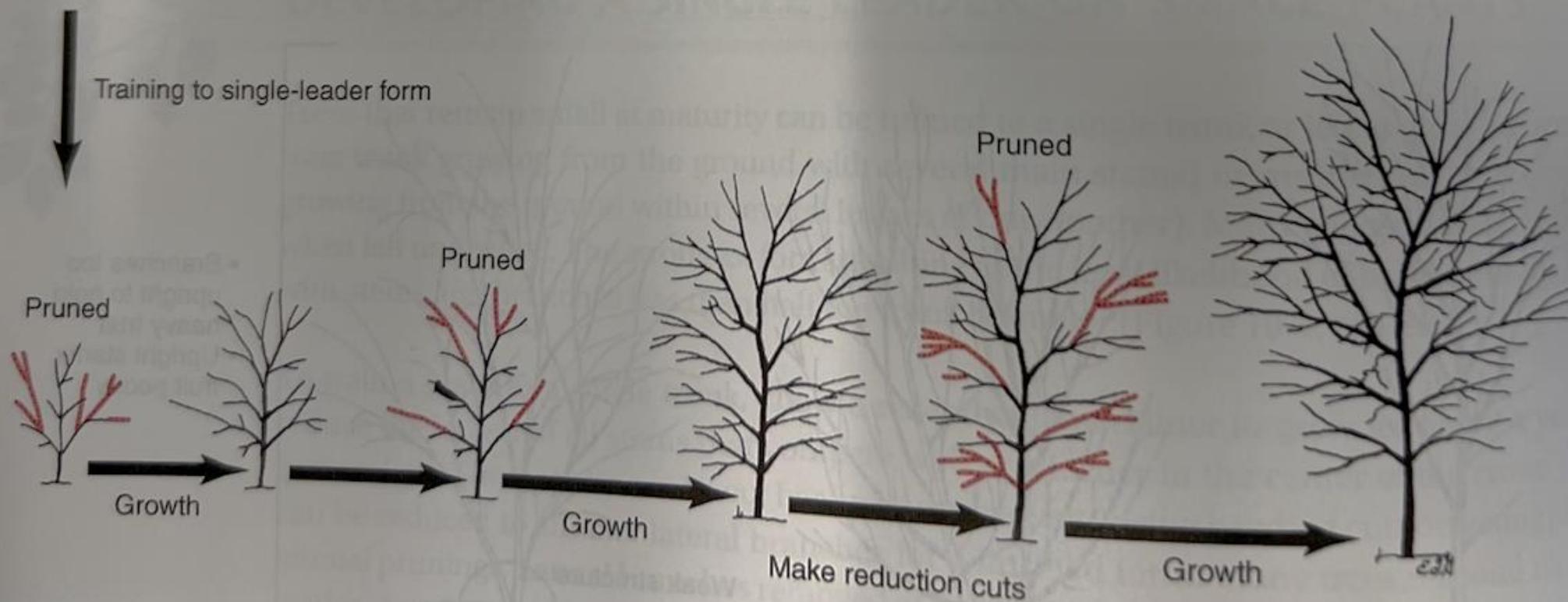


Compiled by Catherine Land Evilsizer, WMG docent, 2025

Training to multileader form



Training to single-leader form

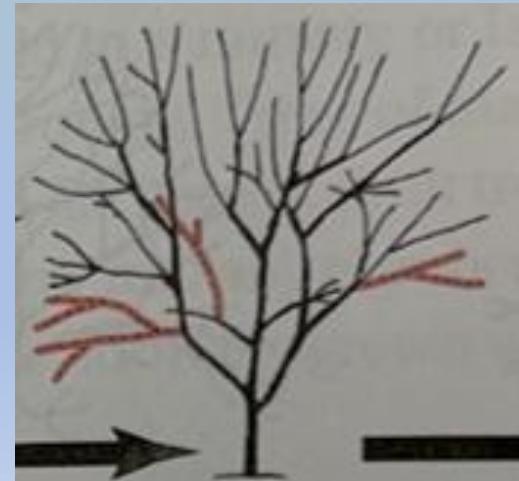
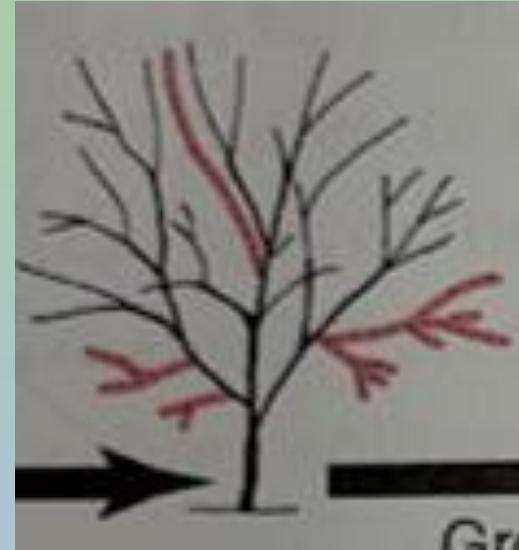




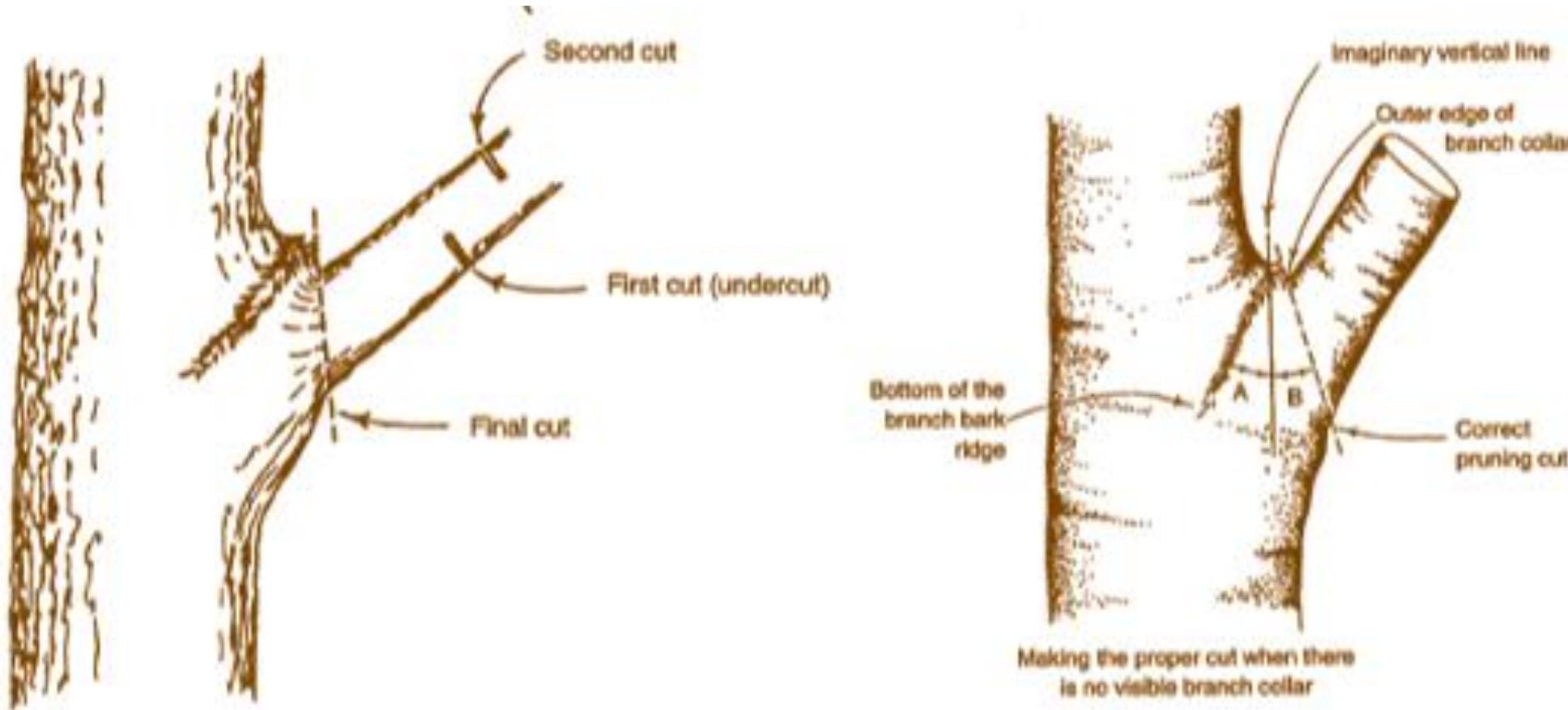
DON'T prune trees at all during the first 2 years

Basic Structural Pruning Concepts

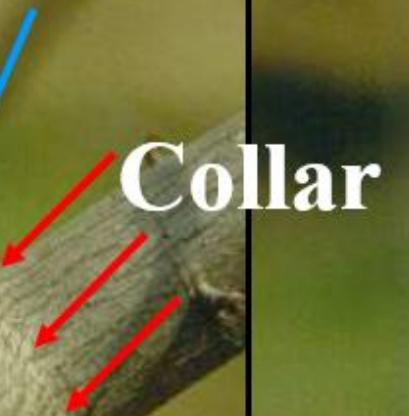
- Shaping the structure of trees happens when they are young (but older than 2 years)
- Space main branches along the dominant trunks/leaders
- Keep all other branches less than 1/2 the trunk diameter by shortening or thinning them



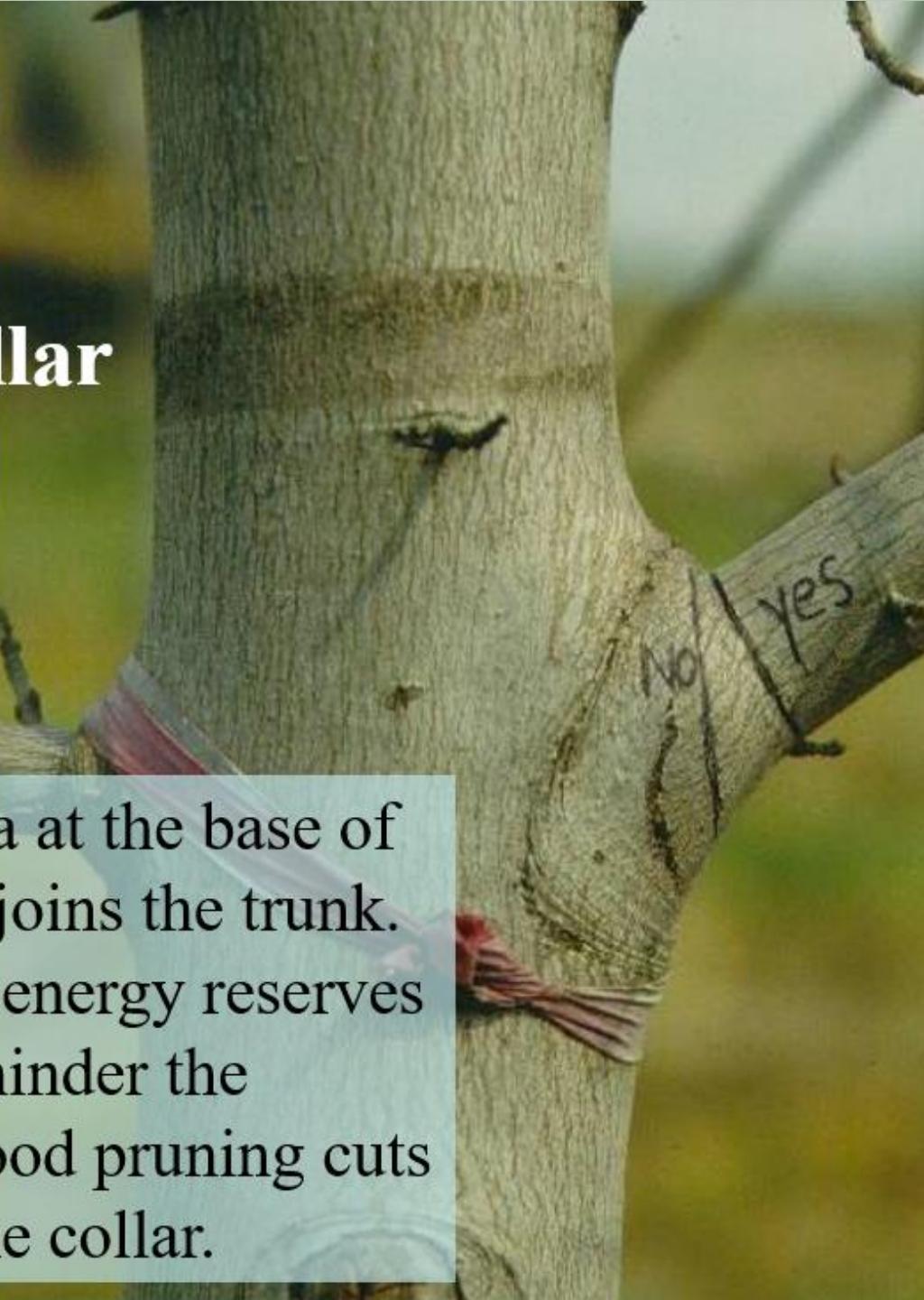
How to prune tree limbs off

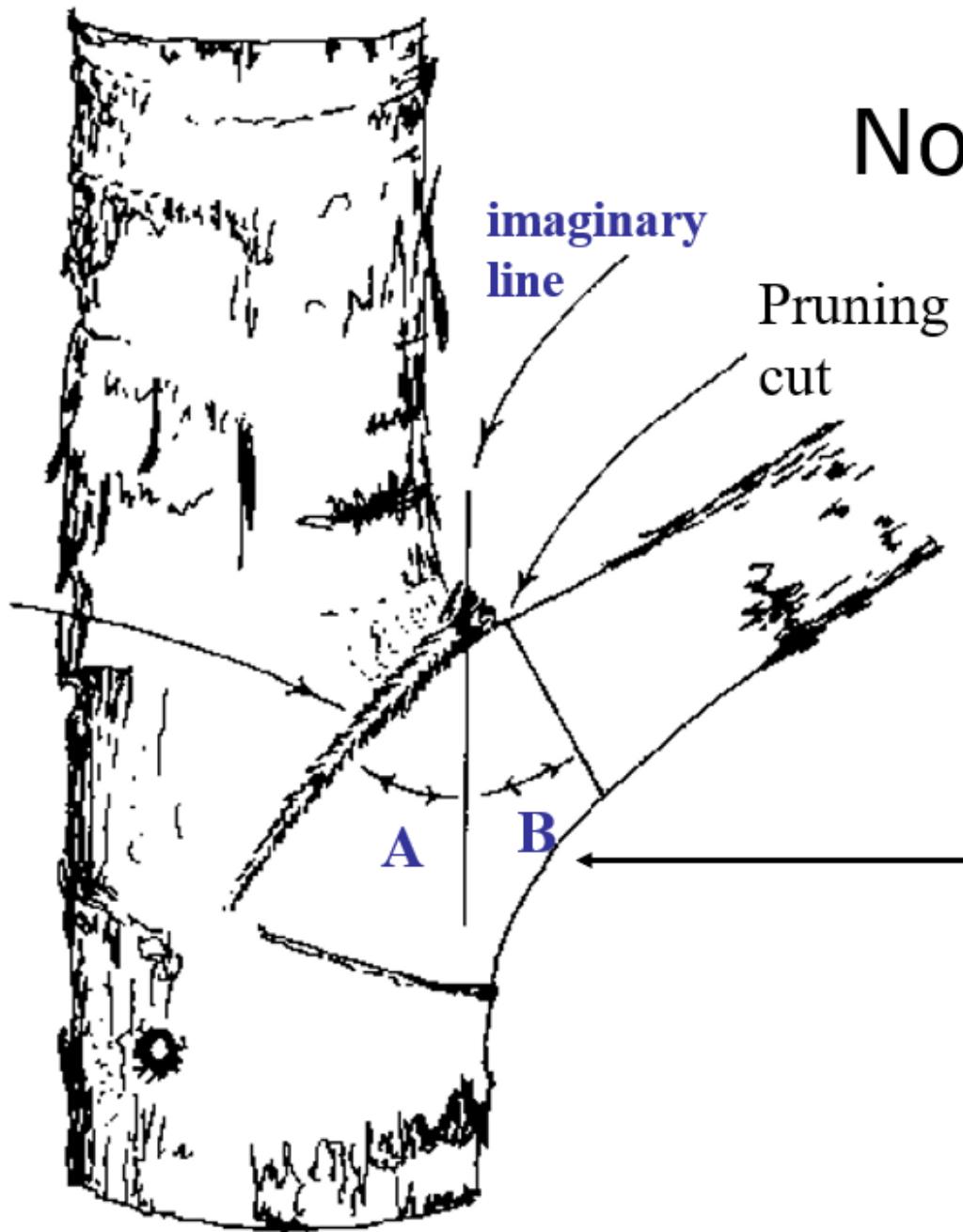


Branch bark ridge



Collar: swollen area at the base of the branch where it joins the trunk. The tissue is rich in energy reserves and chemicals that hinder the spread of decay. Good pruning cuts avoid cutting into the collar.



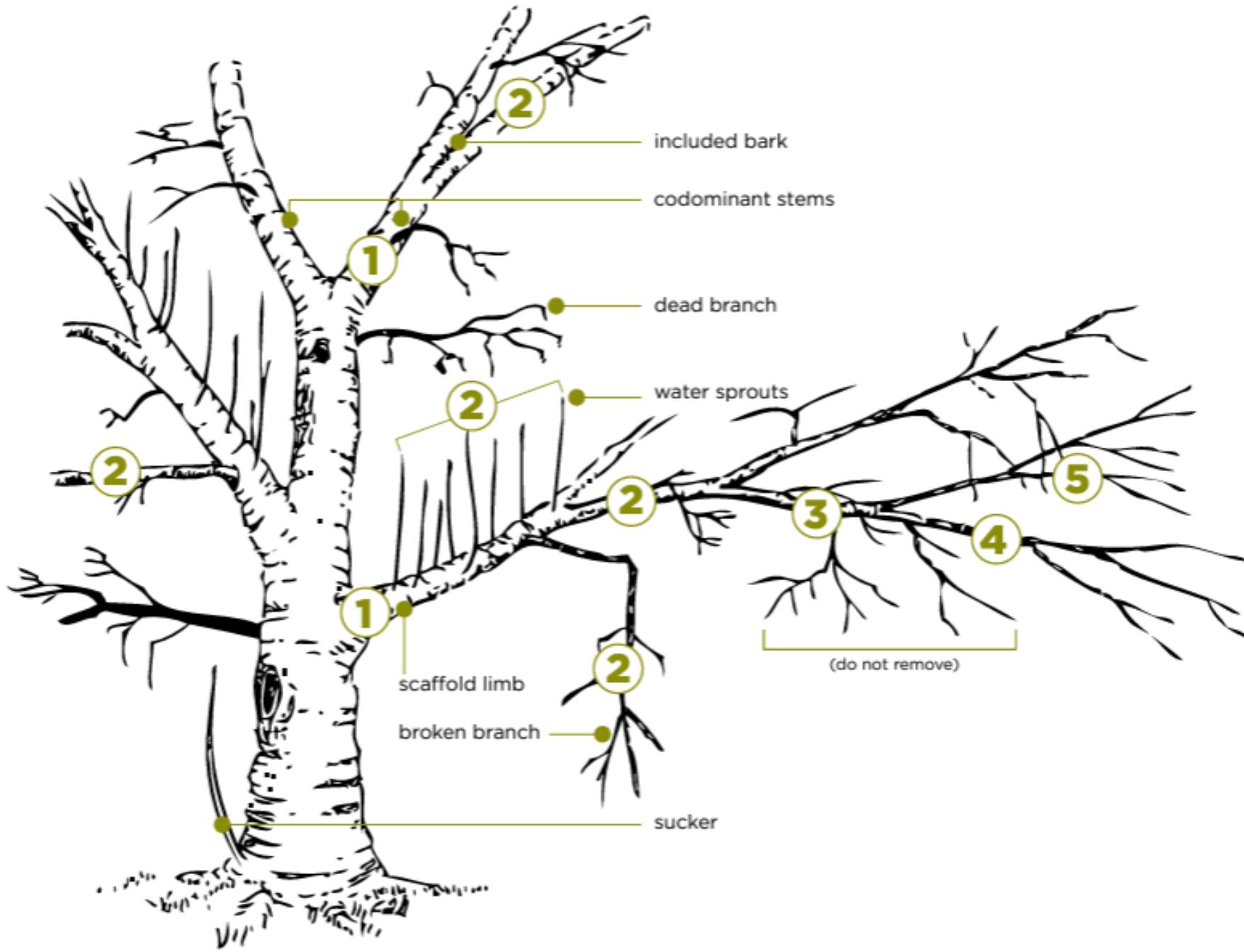


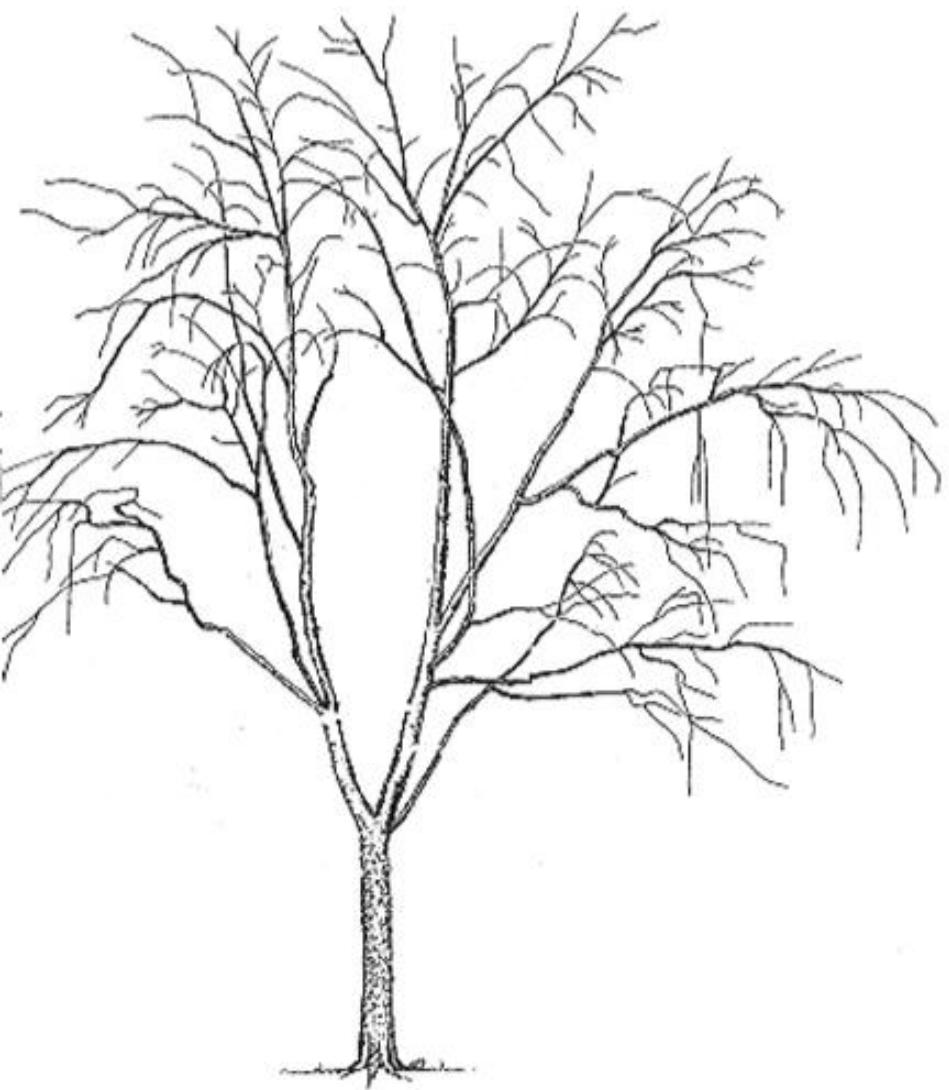
No collar visible

**Angle 'A' should
equal angle 'B'**

Basic Maintenance Pruning Concepts

- Remove all dead, diseased, dying or broken branches
- Where branches are crossed and rubbing together, pick one to remove or shorten
- Try not to remove more than 10% of the live foliage when pruning
- Maintain small-diameter interior branches for health and vigor





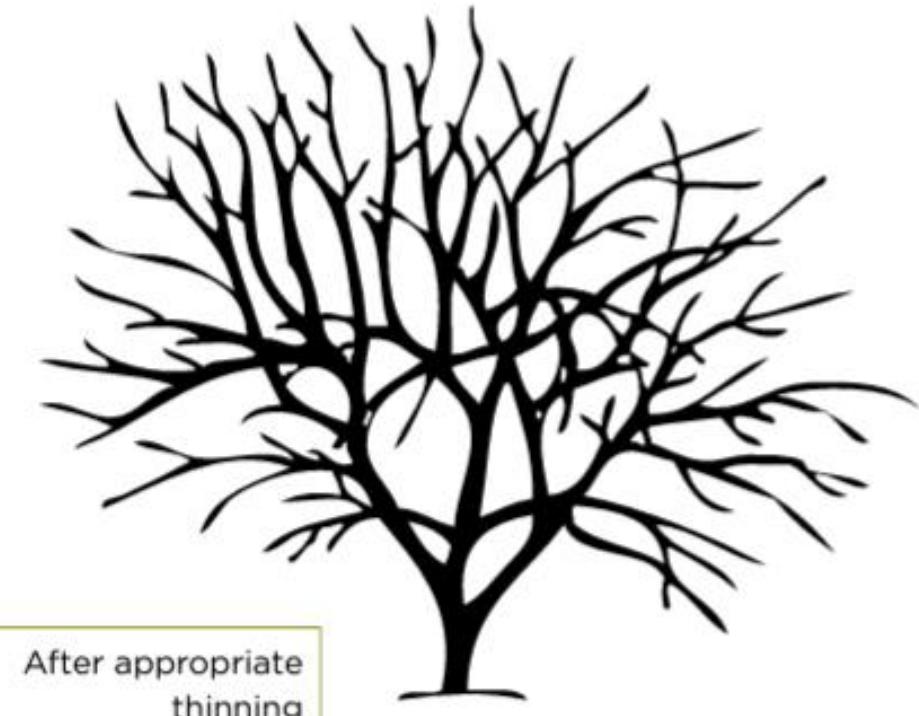
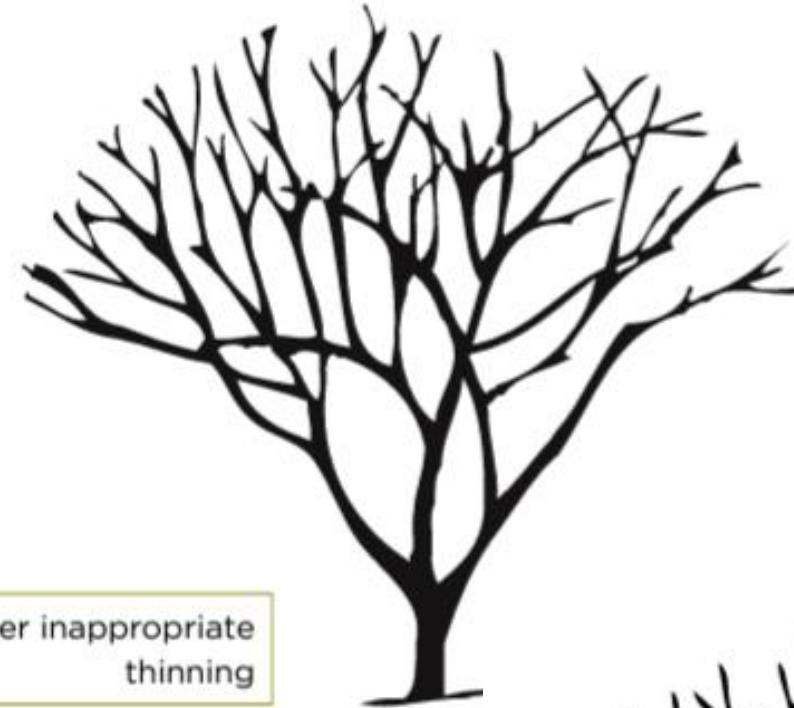
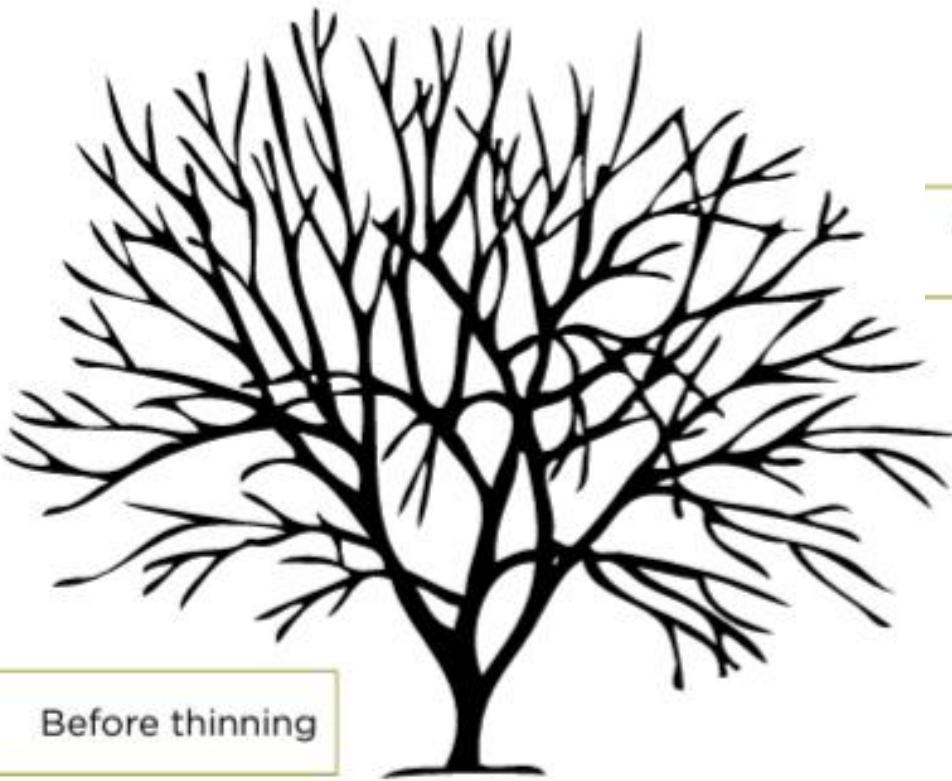
Lions-tailing (not recommended):
branches removed only from the
crown interior







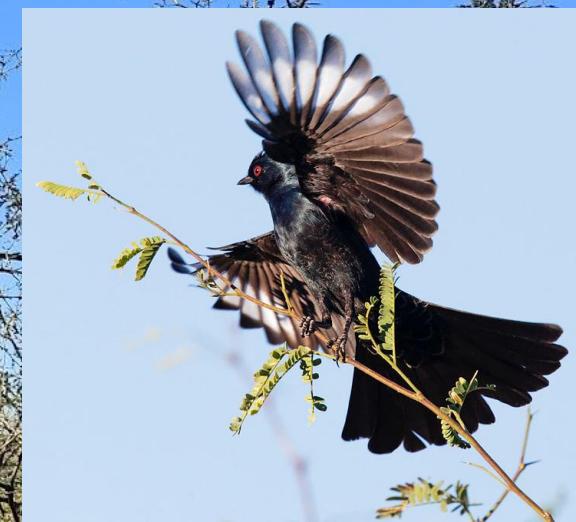
Pruning to thin



What you don't want



Mistletoe & Phainopeplas



When to prune?

- Pruning during the spring and late winter encourages growth because of quick healing
- Focus pruning during the summer when the goal is to reduce tree size
- Pruning in the fall is not recommended because the tree is putting its energy into preparing to go dormant for the winter, so it will have a difficult time healing
- Prune live branches every other year



Eucalyptus trees are dangerous

Locate an ISA Certified Arborist
at www.TreesAreGood.com



El Vado Food Forest velvet mesquites

watershedmg.org/give



Resources

- Information, guides and illustrations, PowerPoints or photos by Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida.
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/> and his book, *An Illustrated Guide to Pruning*
- Tucson Clean & Beautiful
- The Urban Forest Hurricane Recovery Program
<http://treesandhurricanes.ifas.ufl.edu/>