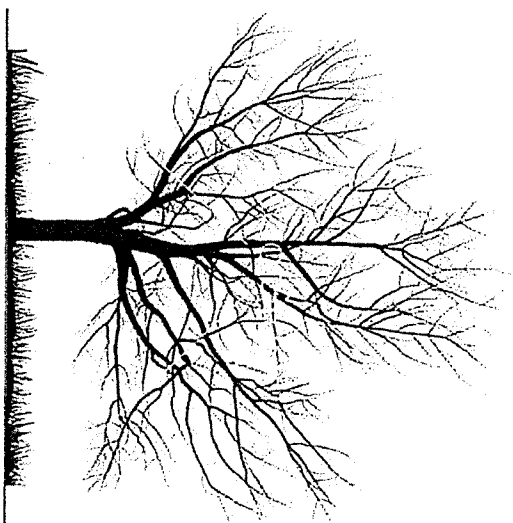


WINTER ORCHARD CARE



UCCE Master Gardeners
Fresno County

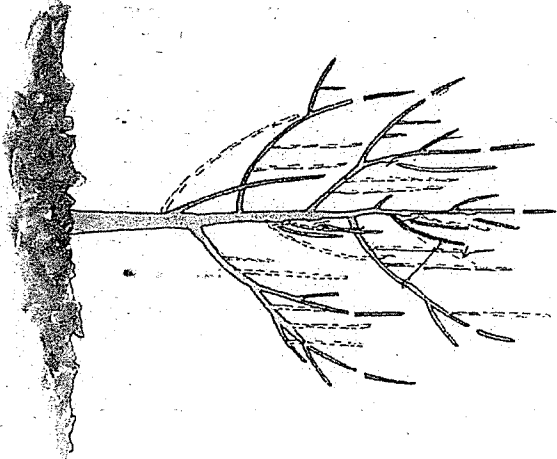
TYPE OF TREE	TREE BEARS ON	WHEN TO PRUNE	WHAT TO PRUNE	WHEN AND WHAT TO SPRAY
APPLE & PEAR	Fruits on short compact branches called spurs	After leaf drop	Remove 20% of new growth, but keep the spurs	Spray with dormant oil in early February for scale, mites and aphids. Spray with lime sulfur at bud swell for blister mite and pear psylla
APRICOT & APRUM	Fruits on 2-4 year old spurs	Prune in late summer (September). Rainfall on newly pruned trees can cause disease	Remove 20% of last year's growth and old, unproductive spurs.	Use copper spray after leaf fall, but before January. DO NOT USE LIME SULFUR
CHERRY	Fruits on short shoots and spurs	Prune is August or September	Remove 10% of last year's growth. Prune to retain convenient height	Spray in February with dormant oil for scale, mite and aphids.
PEACH & NECTARINE	Fruits on one year old wood	Prune after leaf drop	Remove 50% of last year's growth	Spray Copper and dormant oil mid Nov and early Feb For peach leaf curl and shot hole
PLUM & PLUOT	Fruits on 1 year old lateral wood and older spurs	Prune after leaf drop	Remove 20% of last year's growth. Remove upright growth	Spray with dormant oil in February for scale, mites and aphids

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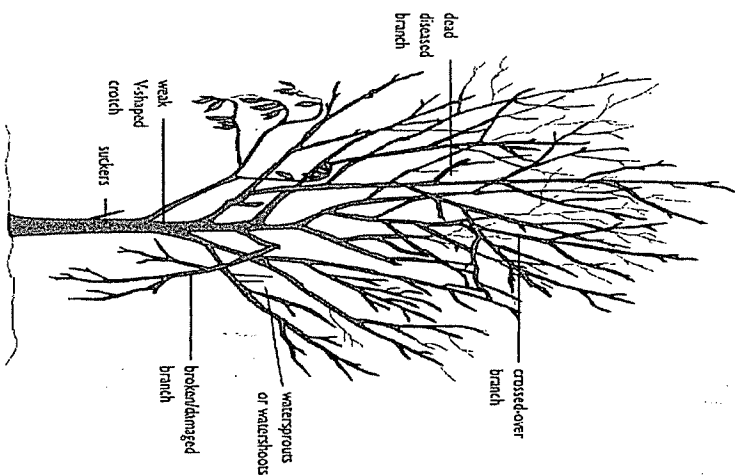
PRUNING BASICS

- Size – lot size, sun area, high density planting
- Fruit growth and coloring – trees need open-structure to develop good fruit.
- Vegetative growth – Let light and air in
- Sunlight to bottom – fruit buds develop on wood that has received sunlight
- Form – fruit only or shade use? Forms include typical open center, central leader and modified central leader.



REMOVE 4 D'S

- Dead wood
- Diseased wood (pests)
- Defective wood (broken)
- Deformed wood (crossing, interior, water sprouts and suckers)



These are the easy cuts to make before you start thinning the new growth to improve the shape and productivity of your fruit tree.

5 PRUNING STEPS

- Vigor of the tree – more vigorous trees require more pruning. Use summer pruning to control height and winter to give shape
- Diseases affected by pruning – prune cherries and apricots in the summer to avoid fungal infections.
- Bearing habit of species – does the tree fruit on one year old wood or older wood? Does the tree fruit on spurs?
- Selective thinning and topping – this opens up the interior of the tree to sunlight and air flow and keeps heights down. Head scaffolds to produce secondary scaffolds
- Shape for appropriate use – cherry, plum and pear trees produce very upright growth and may need to have branches staked or braced. Peaches, apricots and almonds have spreading growth. Flatter angled branches should be removed