Pruning Fruit and Nut Trees

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A glossary of terms used in this publication can be found on page 46.

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GLOSSARY

Crotch: The point at which two branches join.

Framework: The major limbs that make up the structure of a tree and support its fruiting branches.

Head: That part of trunk from which the primary scaffolds arise.

Heading back: Topping or cutting back a branch or limb, but not completely removing it.

Lateral branch: A small limb growing from a larger limb. Often used for fruit wood.

Leader: A dominant upright branch. The central leader is the trunk that extends from the root to the top of a tree.

Necked bud: An undesirable lateral bud that is curved upward and a branch arising from it should not be used later as a structural limb (common in walnut and pecan). See Figure 25.

Primary scaffold limb: One of the major limbs arising from a tree trunk.

Rootstock: The original plant that is now the root system upon which the desired fruiting variety has been budded or grafted.

Secondary scaffold limb: A framework limb that arises from a primary scaffold.

Shoot: Current season’s or 1-year-old growth, with or without leaves.

Spur: A short fruiting shoot that usually grows from 1/2 to 4 inches during a growing season.

Stub: A protruding branch left after pruning, often the result of careless pruning. (A branch cut closely and smoothly to a scaffold will not leave a stub.)

Sucker: A vigorous shoot that arises below the bud union from the rootstock or roots.

Tertiary scaffold: Framework limb that arises from secondary scaffold.

Thinning out: Complete removal of branch or limb at its point of origin.

Topping: Cutting back the top of a tree to maintain an established height.

Water sprout: A vigorous, usually undesirable, shoot arising from the trunk or scaffold limbs.

*Most of the above terms are illustrated in the following figures.*

![Diagram](image-url)

Figure 45. Many terms defined in the glossary are illustrated.
Figure 46. Heading back is shown here: before, left; after, right.

Figure 47. Thinning out is seen here: before, left; after, right.