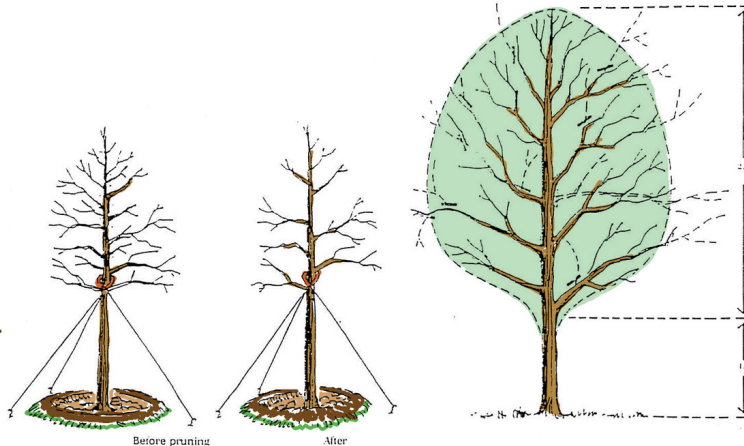


# Pruning Trees for Form

The objective in pruning for form is to help shape a tree that is aesthetically pleasing and serves well in the space it is to occupy. After pruning with strength in mind, look for ways to help shape the most desirable tree.

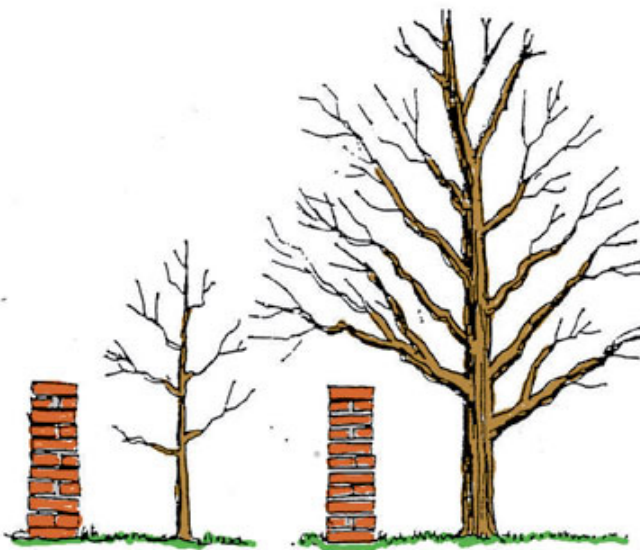


## Ingrowners Prodtuder's and Crown Ratio

When a crown is dense, look for limbs that turn inward and those that extend beyond the "natural" outline of the crown. Prune at the trunk or down to an appropriate lateral branch. Over-pruning can damage or even kill your tree. Always maintain at least 2/3 of the tree as the live crown.

## Thinning & Spacing

Most trees benefit from thinning - removing a portion of the limbs that compete for space and light. Evenly spaced laterals, 8-12 inches apart in the young tree, is a good rule of thumb to help assure an ideal "ladder" at maturity.



## Double leaders

Protect the leader from competition. In trees with co-dominant leaders, remove the one with a crook or other defects, or that creates a lop-sided appearance.

## Function

Try to image what the tree will look like when it is larger. If a limb is headed toward trouble, remove as early as possible in the life of the tree. Closure of the wound will be more complete when the limb is small, and it is less trouble and expense. Remember, limbs do not move upward as a tree grows in height.