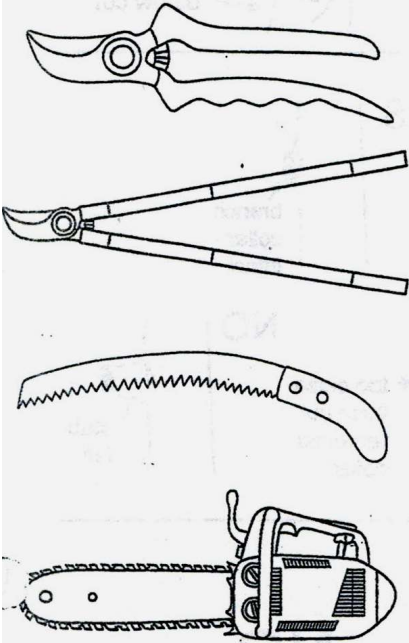


# Basic Pruning Guidelines

1. Know WHY you are pruning (size control, fruit, flowers, damage, etc).
2. Know WHAT you are pruning—species and variety, both change how you will prune
3. Have the correct TOOLS for the job
4. Know where your fruit comes from, ie: 2 year wood or spurs? Lean to identify buds, are they leafing or flowering (fruit bearing).
5. Look for broken, damaged diseased or older wood first & remove
6. Always prune to an OUTSIDE bud
7. NEVER leave a stub
8. Start with thinning cuts, end with heading cuts, if they are necessary after thinning
9. Use a jump cut to remove larger limbs
10. Remove NO more than 25% of foliage each year

## Use the Correct Tools



**HAND PRUNERS** are useful for small branches, up to about 1/2" dia. Use loppers or a saw for larger branches or for species with hard-wood.

Long-Handled **LOPPERS** may be used to remove larger diater branches but precise cuts are more difficult to make.

Curved blade **PRUNING SAWS** cut on the pull stroke. Newer blade designs are able to cur large and small diameter branches quickly and cleanly. Pruning saws are available with fixed or folding blades, or mounted on a pole. Larger pruning saws are sometimes used by professionals.

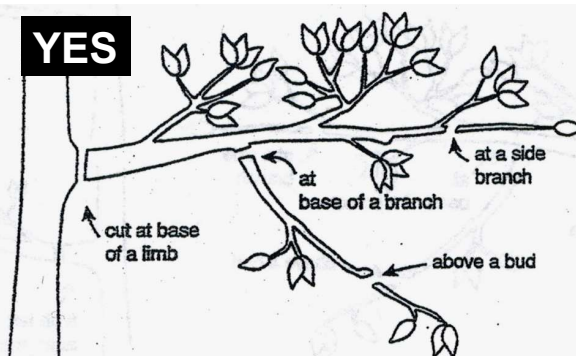
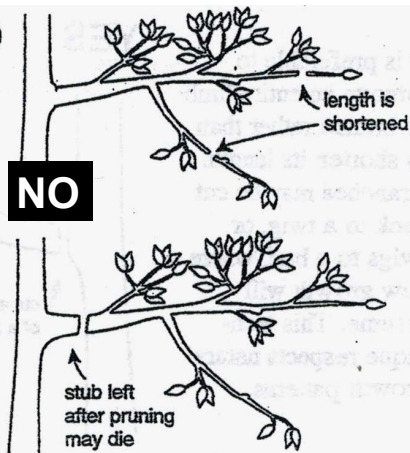
**CHAINSAWS** are not recommended for general pruning except by professionals as a time saver. Consider hiring an arborist for large or potentially dangerous work.

## Timing is Impor-

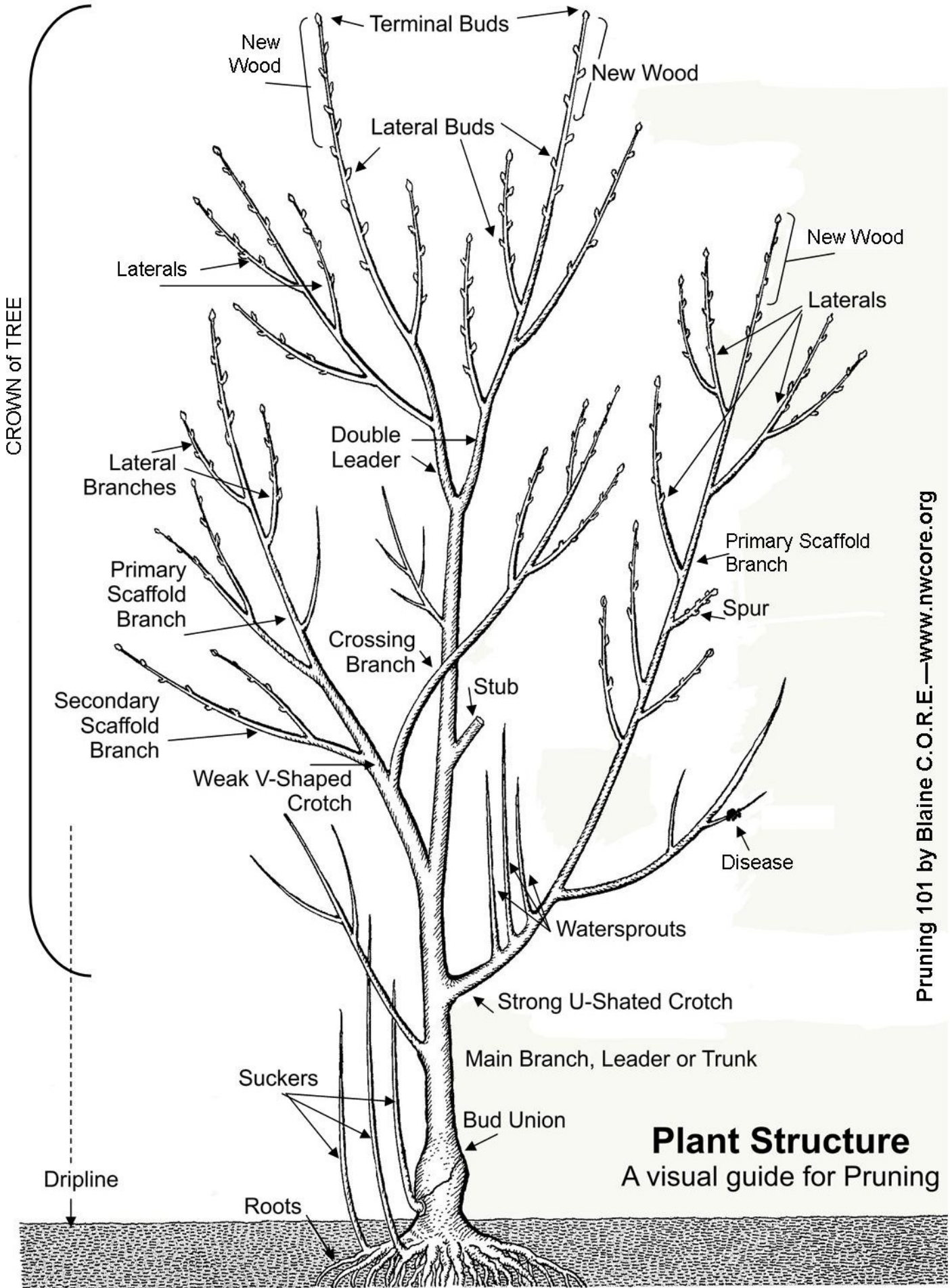
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Best Time	●	●										●
Worst Time				●	●							
Light Pruning	●	●	●			●	●	●	●	●	●	●

To minimize damage and synchronize with the natural growth cycle, prune in winter, Jan. & Feb. Avoid heavy pruning as leaves are expanding in April & May when tree energy reserves are low. Timing for light pruning is less critical. Late summer light pruning for fruit trees is a suitable solution for upright branches. For maximum display of spring flowering species, prune after bloom, June or later. Prune dead or damaged limbs and branches at any time to reduce further damage.

## Remove Whole Limbs/Branches



It is preferable to remove an entire limb or branch rather than to shorten its length. Branches may be cut back to a twig, or twigs to a bud where new growth will resume. This technique respects natural growth patterns.



**Plant Structure**  
A visual guide for Pruning