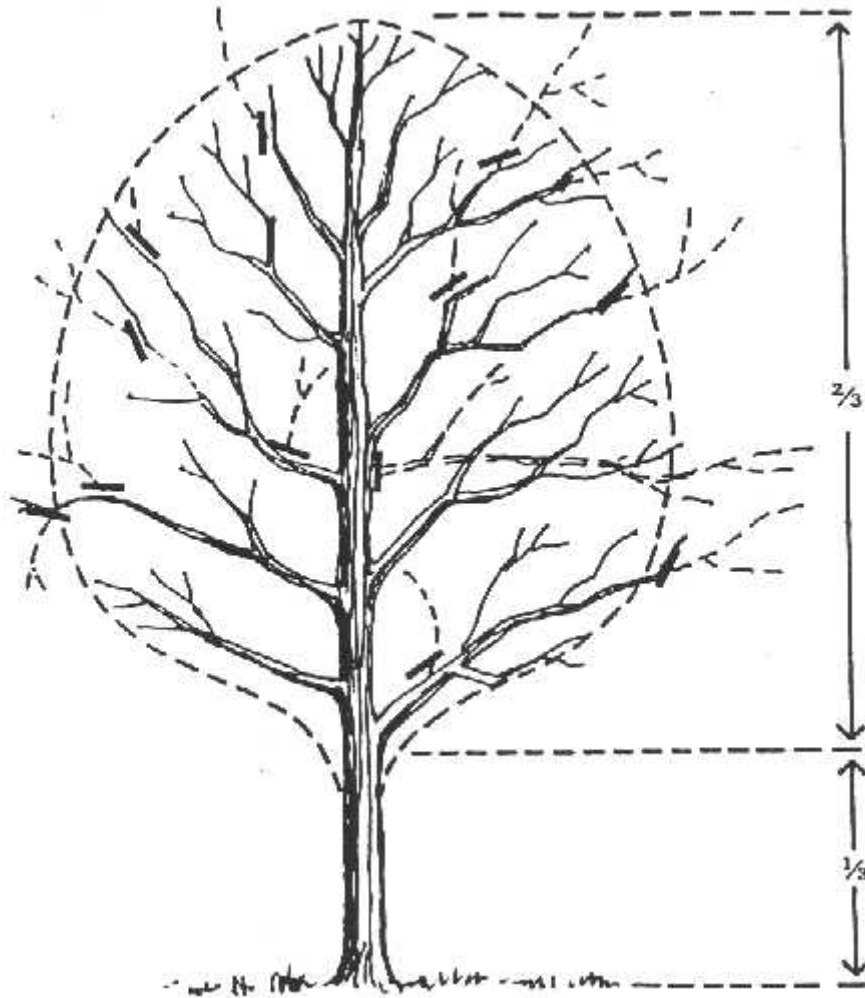




TEN PRUNING COMMANDMENTS

By: Mark Peterson

- I. Always have a reason to prune - If in doubt, then **DON'T** take it out.
- II. **ALL** pruning is done at a bud or branch regardless of whether you are shortening a branch, removing seeds, or reducing tree height.
- III. Prune to improve **Tree Strength and Safety**. Reduce trunk and limb breakage by eliminating multiple trunks of equal size and narrow branch junctures that look like "V's".
- IV. Prune to **Improve Tree Health** by removing the dead, diseased, and dying branches, any rubbing branches, and any branch where light or wind does not penetrate.
- V. Always maintain the upper two thirds of the tree in branches and foliage.
- VI. Never remove more than **25%** of the canopy during one pruning cycle (4-6 years).
- VII. **NEVER TOP A TREE.**
- VIII. Never leave a stub or remove the branch collar by a flush cut.
- IX. Painting tree wounds is unnecessary **EXCEPT** for oaks. Painting on oaks must be done within 30 minutes.
- X. Always disinfect pruning tools between trees to prevent the spread of disease.



Ingrowers

Protruders 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the tree as the live crown.

