

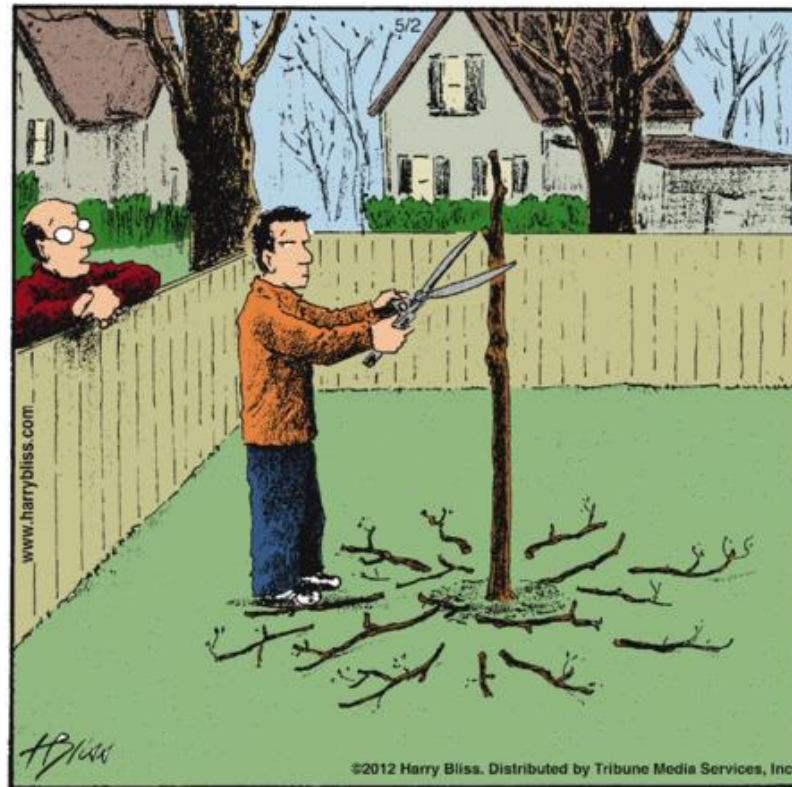


Colorado Convention Center

Denver, CO | February 7-10

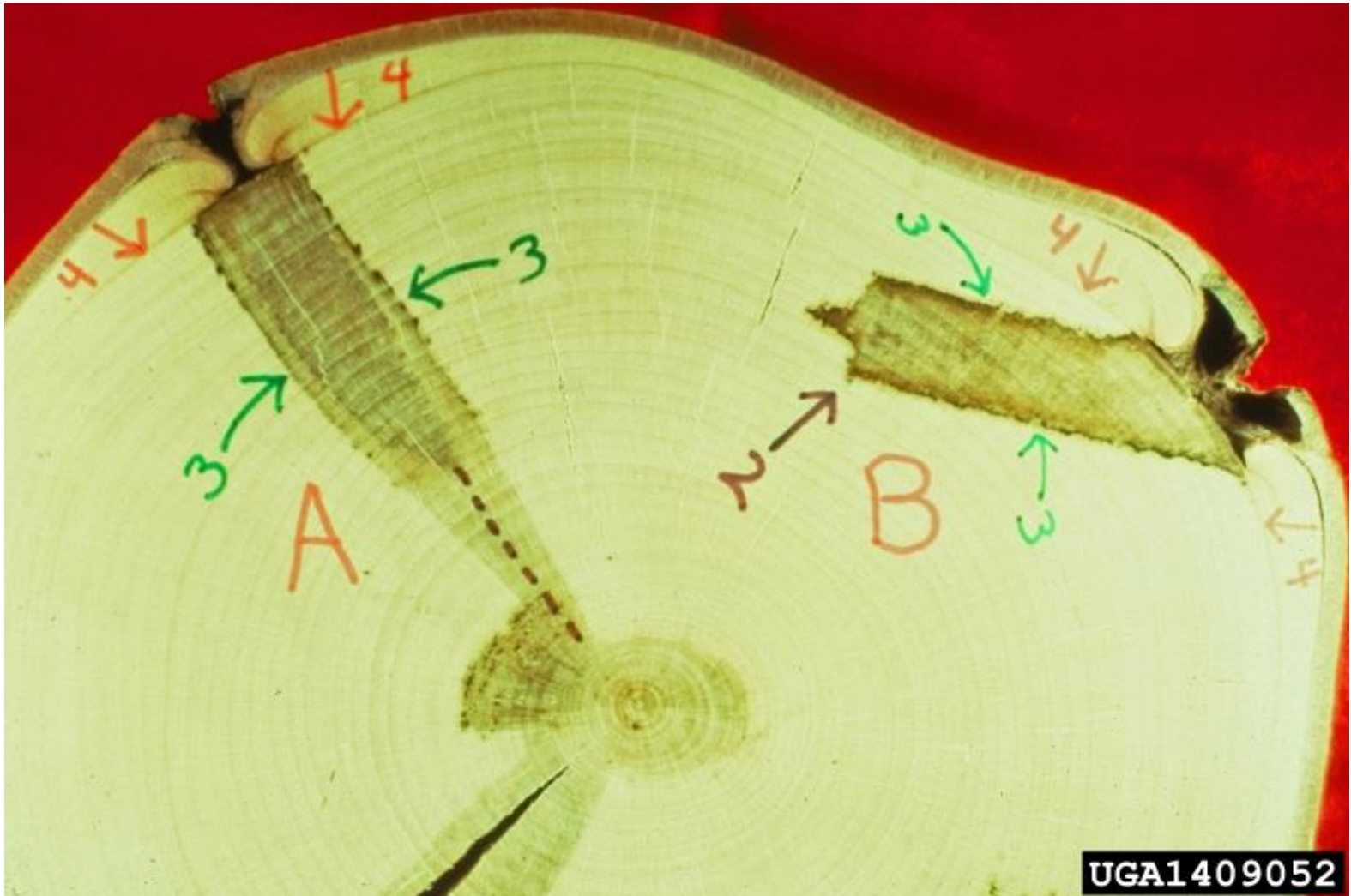
**Pruning Made Easy: Best Practices
for Keeping Your Woody Plants
Healthy and Looking Their Best**

What Effect Does Pruning Have on Woody Plants?



"First time pruning?"

Pruning wounds are entry points for decay organisms-Issue with trees.



When we prune a tree we are creating an avenue for decay organisms.

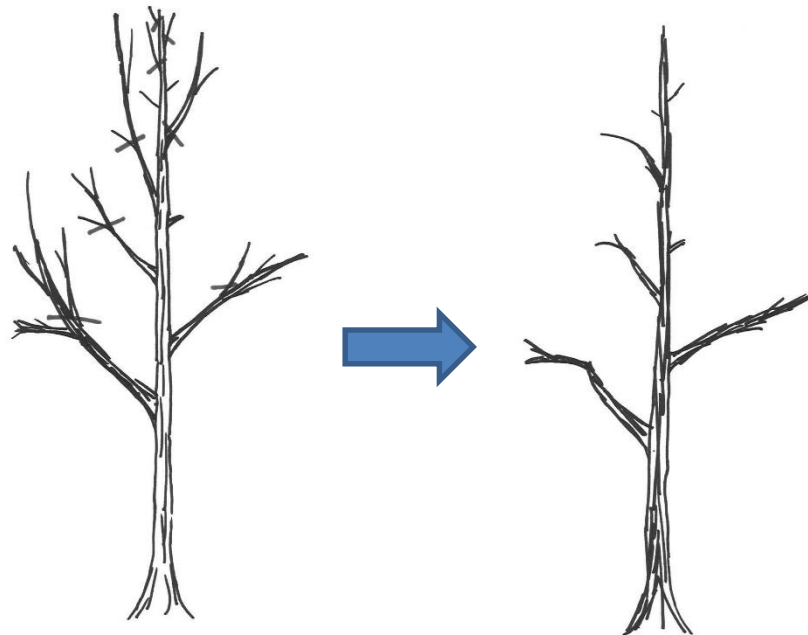
Wood
affected by
decay.



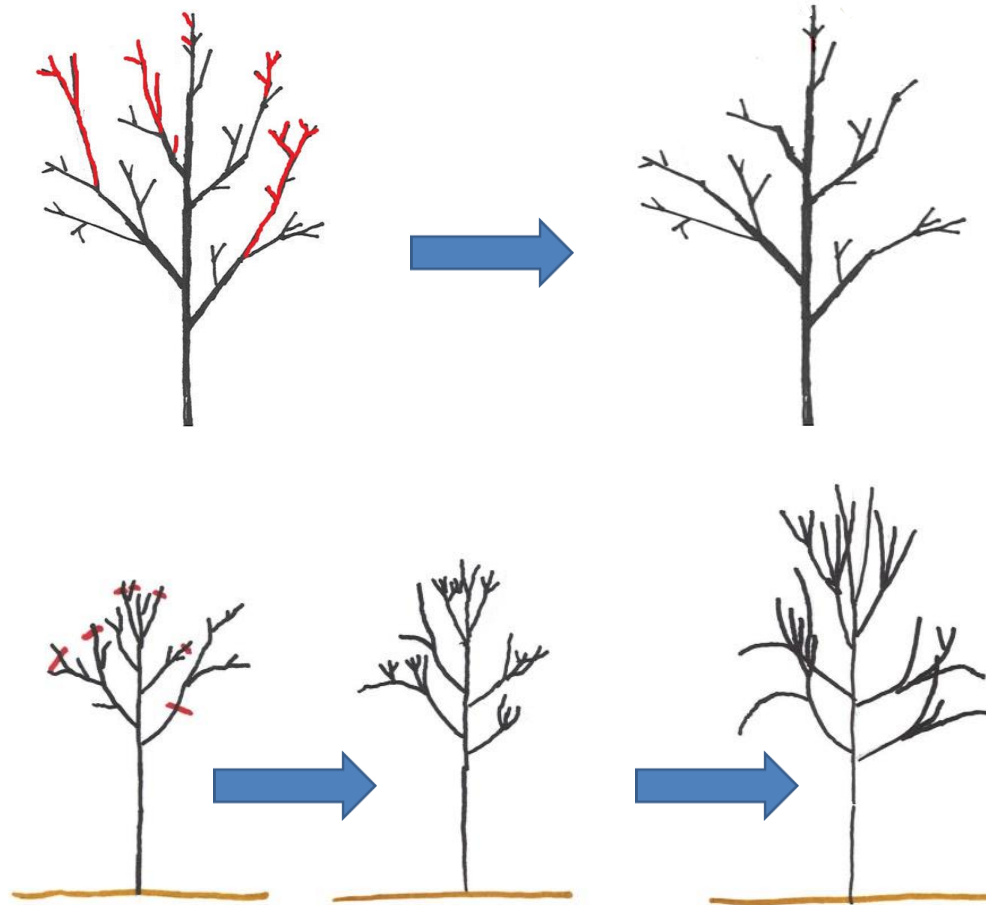
“Wall”
created by
tree to
compartmentalize decay

Removing limbs can reduce vigor

- Fewer leaves to perform photosynthesis
- Loss of stored energy in live wood (starches)
- Tree expends energy to fight decay\repair embolisms



Improper pruning can encourage good or bad structure.



Pruning shrubs affects canopy density (light penetration) and flowering.

- Shearing increases density of branches at the edge of canopy
- Thinning or rejuvenation allows more light to reach the base of the shrub
 - Encourages growth from the base
 - Improves flowering overtime.
- Pruning potentially removes flower buds.

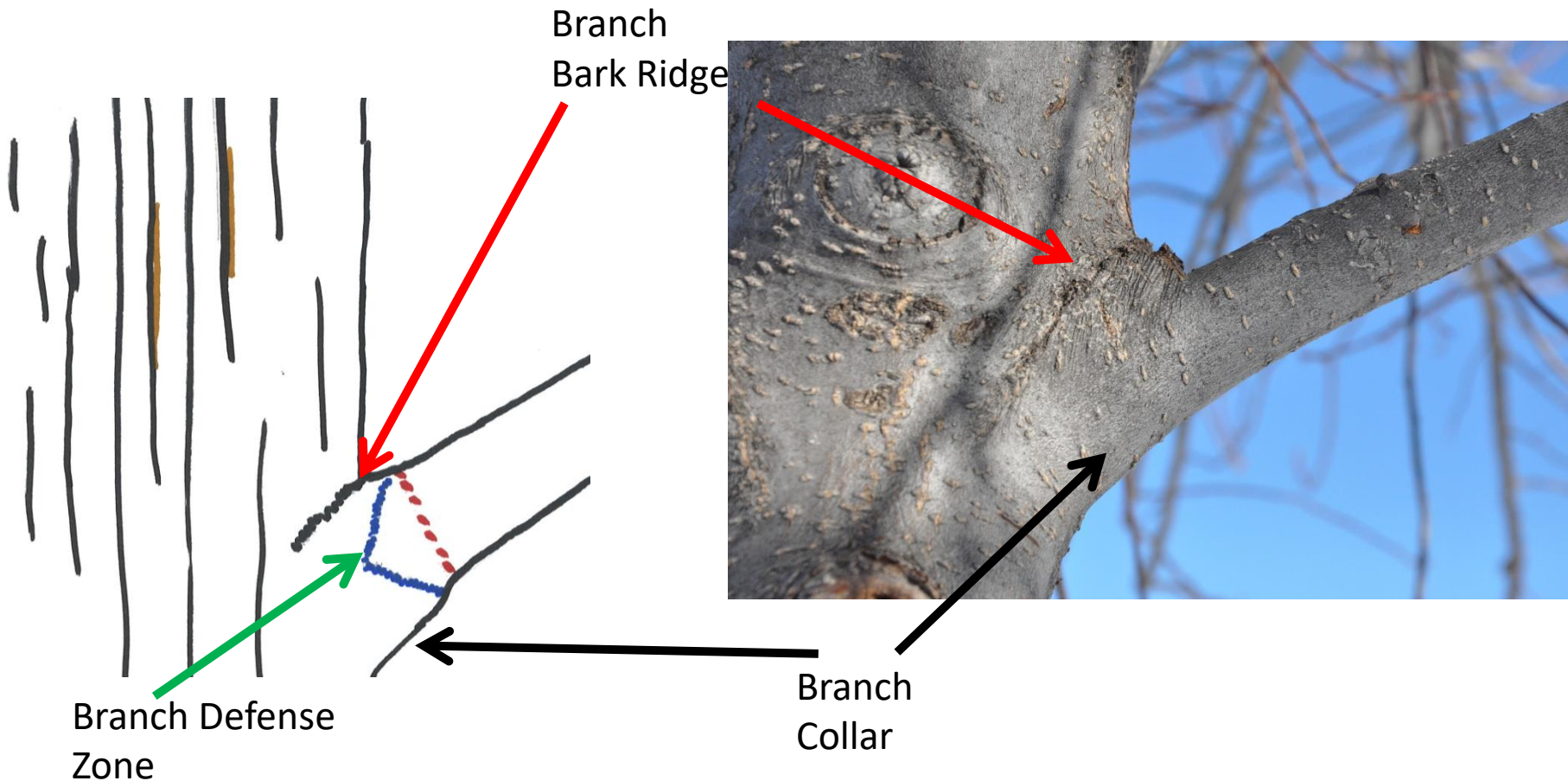


Best Practices for Pruning Cuts- Trees



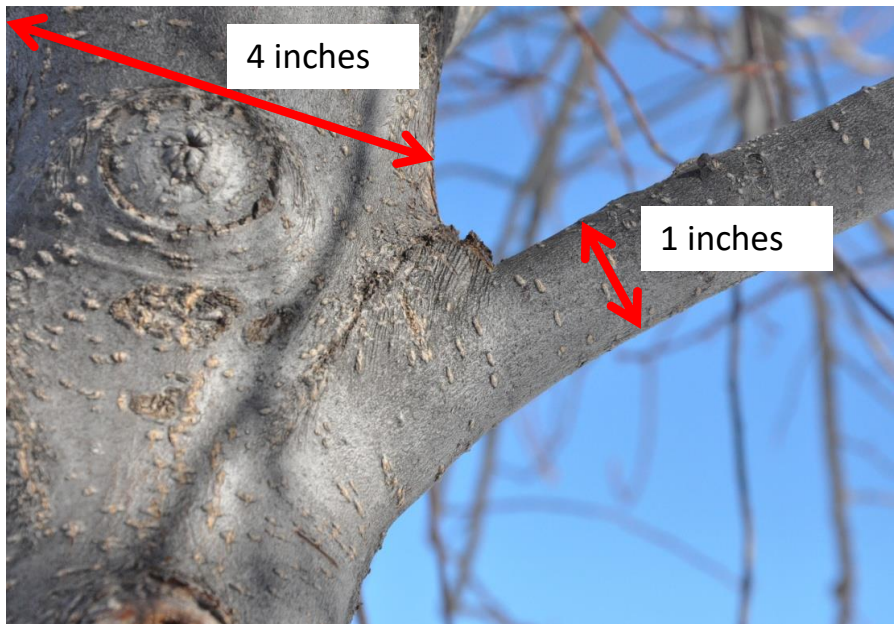
Smaller diameter is safer- 4" inch or less ideal.

Best Practices for Pruning Cuts- Trees



Safest Type of Cut: Removing a small branch with a “collar” back to a larger branch- REMOVAL cut.

Best Practices for Pruning Cuts- Trees



Edward F. Gilman, Professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, IFAS, University of Florida

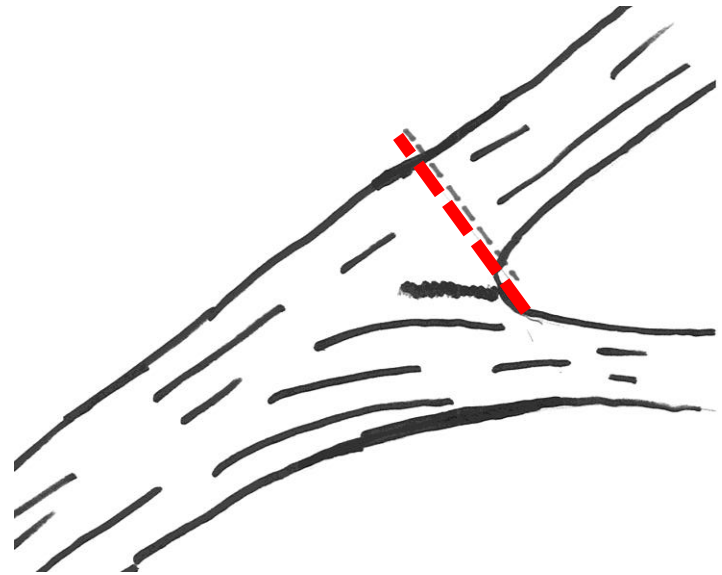
“Collars” more likely to develop on branch $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of their parent branch or less

Best Practices for Pruning Cuts- Trees

Heading Cuts



Reduction Cuts



Recommended Cut:

Large branch removed back to a smaller branch.

Remove branch with the cut the smallest possible surface area



**Dealing with Shrubs.
(Stop the Senseless Shearing)**

CUTTING THE HEDGE



LIKE A BOSS

Why Prune Shrubs?



Why Prune Shrubs?

Before Pruning Always Ask :
“What is the purpose of this shrub?”



“What is the Purpose of this shrub?”





“What is the Purpose of this shrub?”





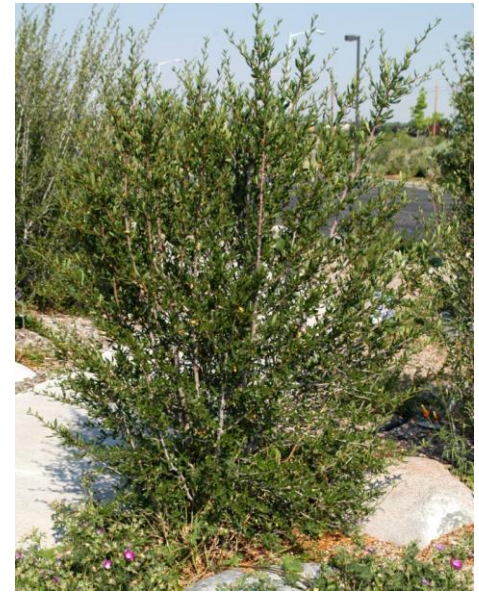
“What is the Purpose of this shrub?”

Best pruning method and timing is dependent on a shrubs purpose



Best pruning method and timing is dependent on a shrubs purpose





Ornamental Shrubs: Planted for One or More Ornamental Features

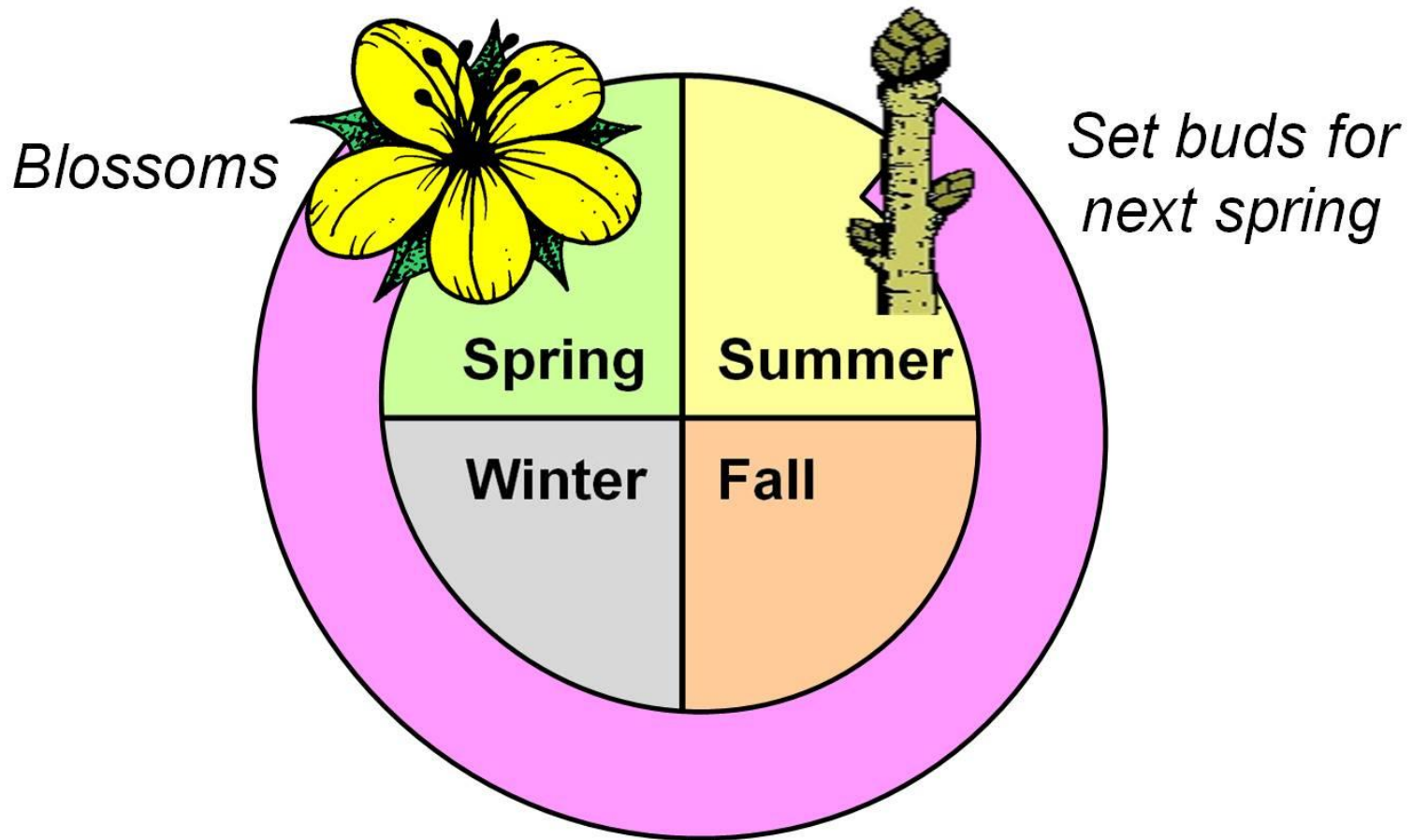
A large, dense bush of white-flowered shrubs, possibly a species of Eucalyptus, is the central focus of the image. The flowers are small and numerous, creating a textured, white appearance. The bush is surrounded by other garden plants, including a tall, thin, silver-leaved shrub to the right and a dark green, conical shrub to the left. The ground is covered with small, light-colored pebbles.

Flowering Shrubs

- Plan pruning to maximize flower show.
- Important to understand when and on what age of wood a given species of shrubs flowers.
- Most shrubs flower less on older woody stems.
- Generally, shearing is a bad idea.

SPRING flowering shrubs bloom on old wood

(wood and buds produced in pervious years)



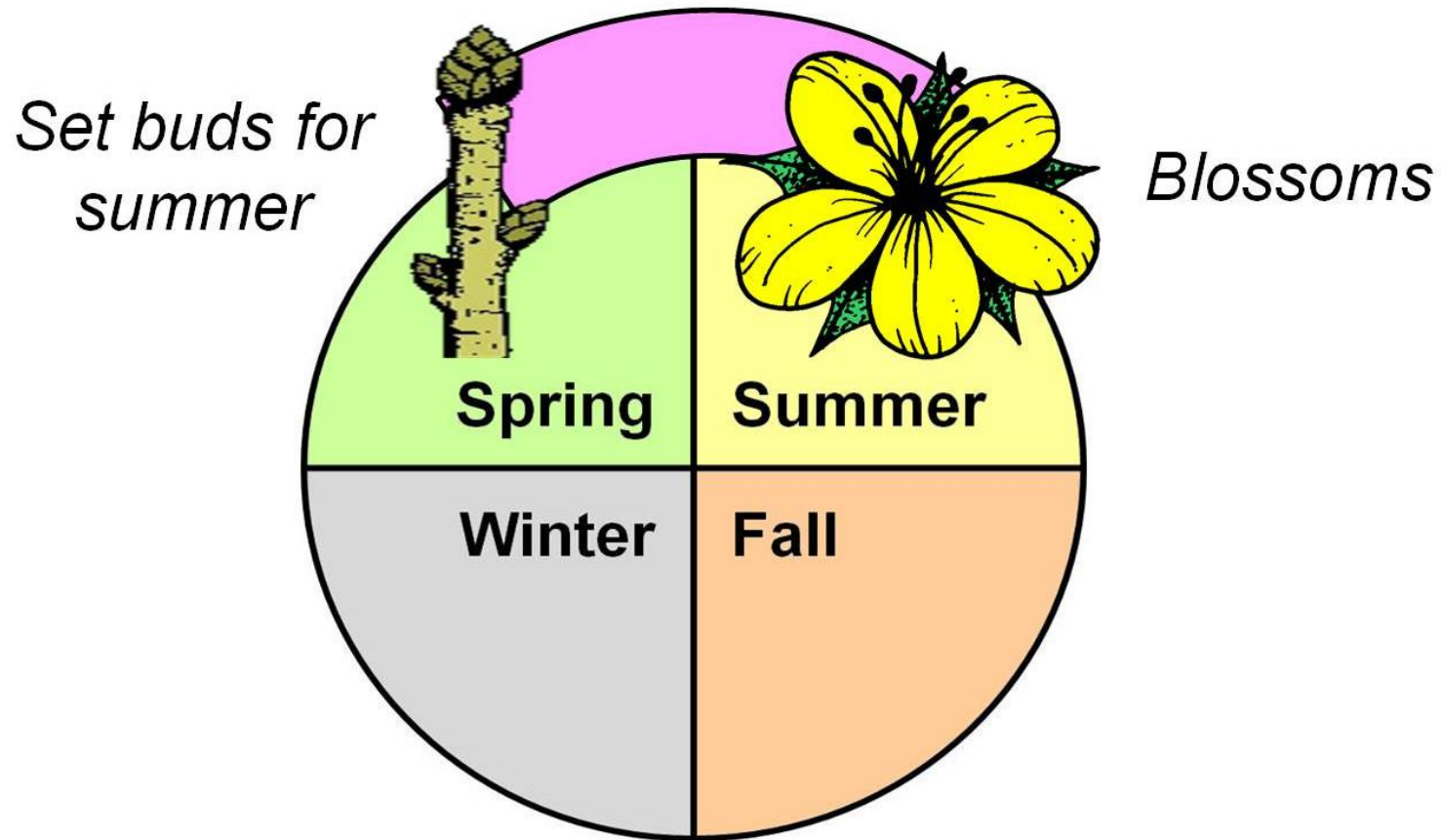
SPRING flowering shrubs bloom on old wood (wood and buds produced in pervious years)



Examples of Spring Flowering Shrubs



SUMMER flowering shrubs bloom on
new (current season) wood.



Examples of Summer Flowering Shrubs



Flowering Shrubs

Spring Flowering

- Prune immediately after they are done blooming
- Thinning or shaping are fine.
- Over grown shrubs can be rejuvenated in late winter or early spring (no flowers the following year).
- Minor pruning anytime

Summer Flowering

- Major pruning in the early spring before plants leaf out
- Thinning or shaping are fine.
- Over grown shrubs can be rejuvenated in late winter or early spring
- Minor pruning any time



Screens or Hedges

Screens or Hedges

Screen Planting

- Informal barrier to divide a space or block a view
- Low maintenance



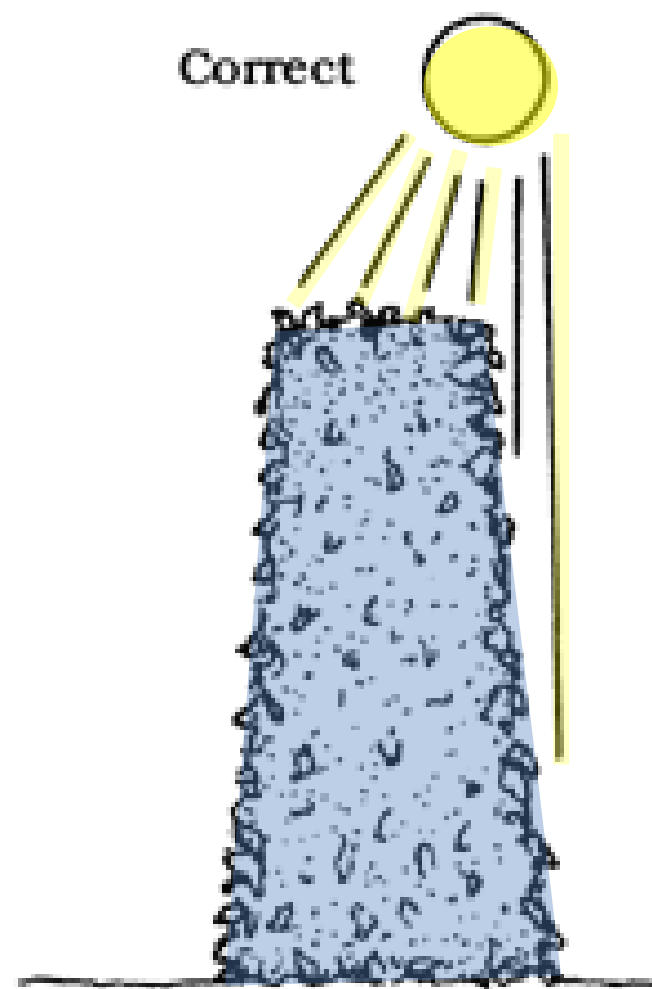
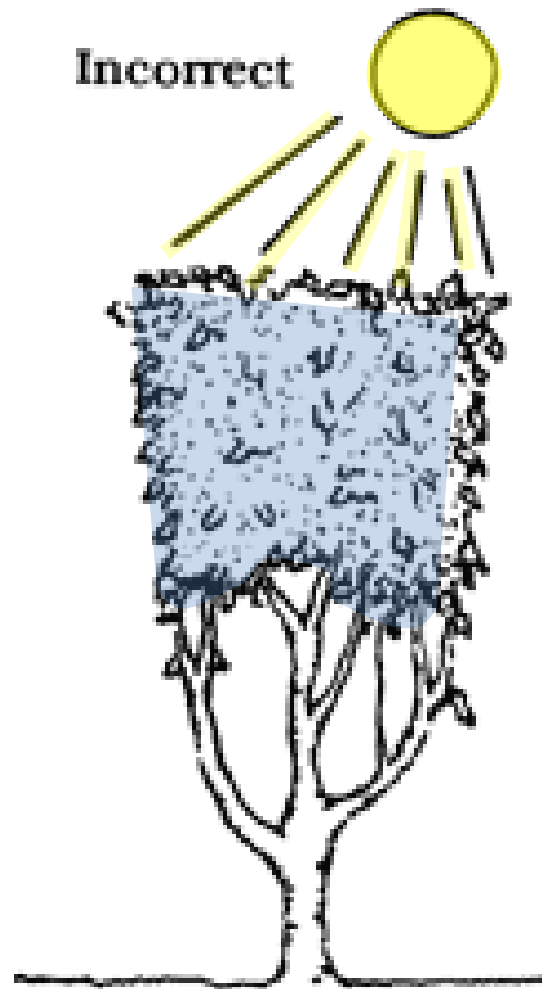
Hedge

- Sheared and more formal
- High maintenance
- Not all plants tolerant shearing





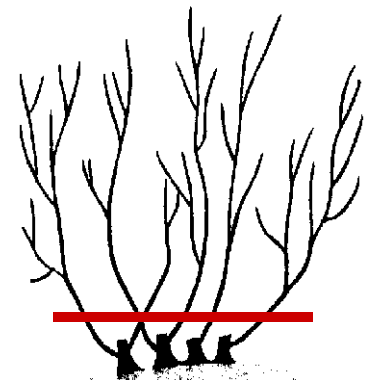
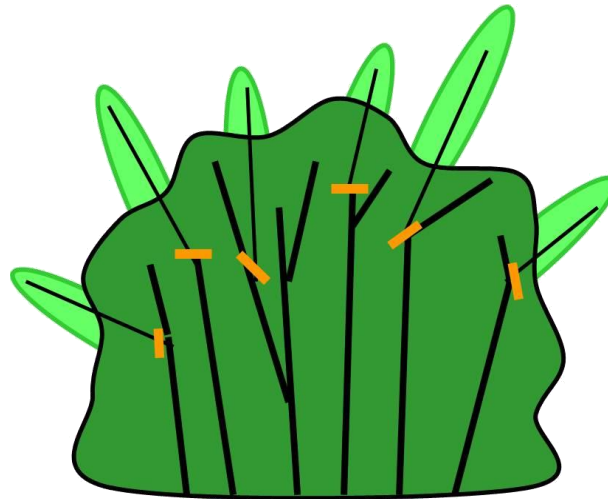
Prune hedge with wider base than top.



Prune hedge with wider base than top.

Pruning Techniques

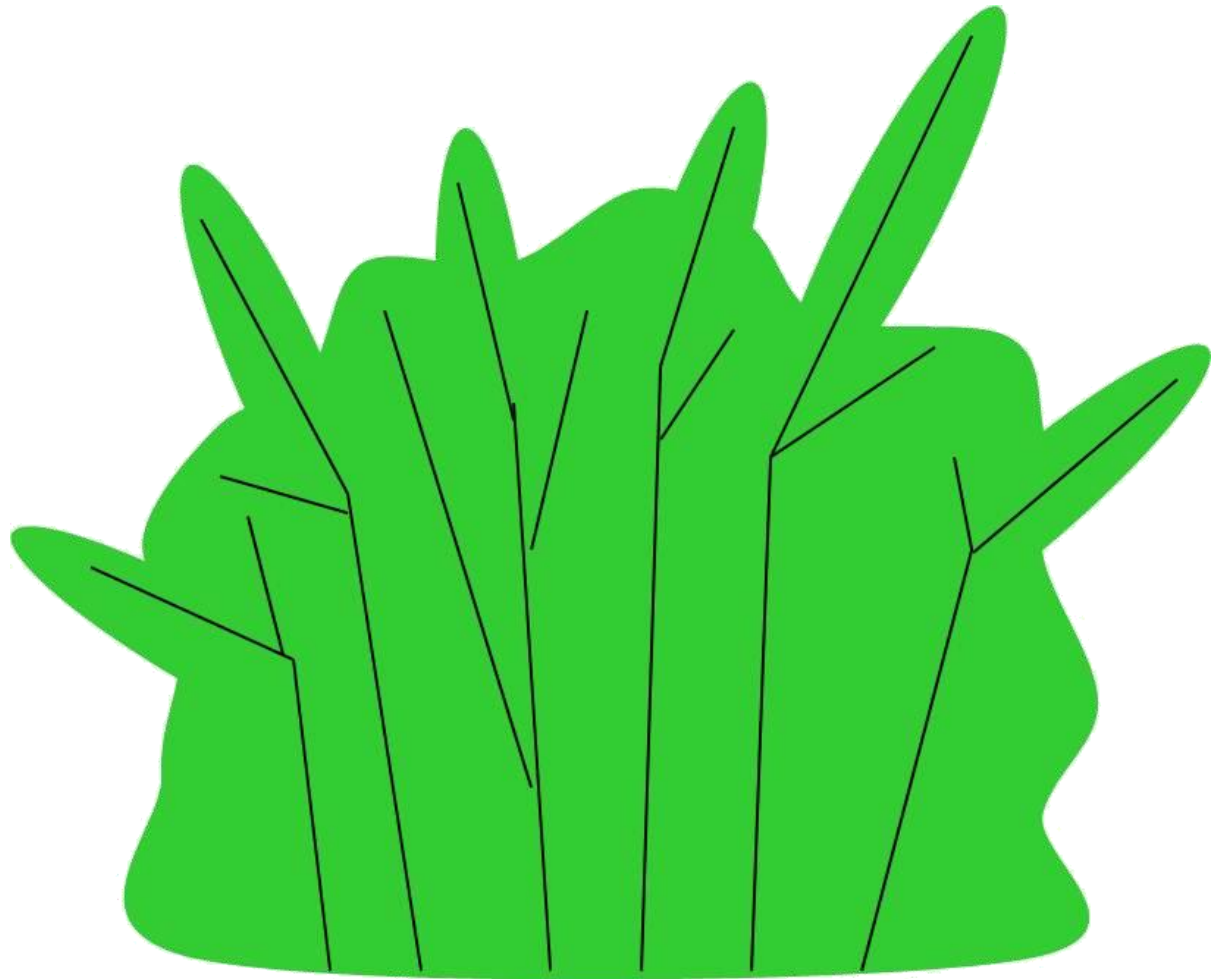
- Individual branch shaping
- Annual thinning (Renewal)
- Rejuvenation by cutting to ground
- Shearing
- Replacement



Line drawing: U.S.D.A.

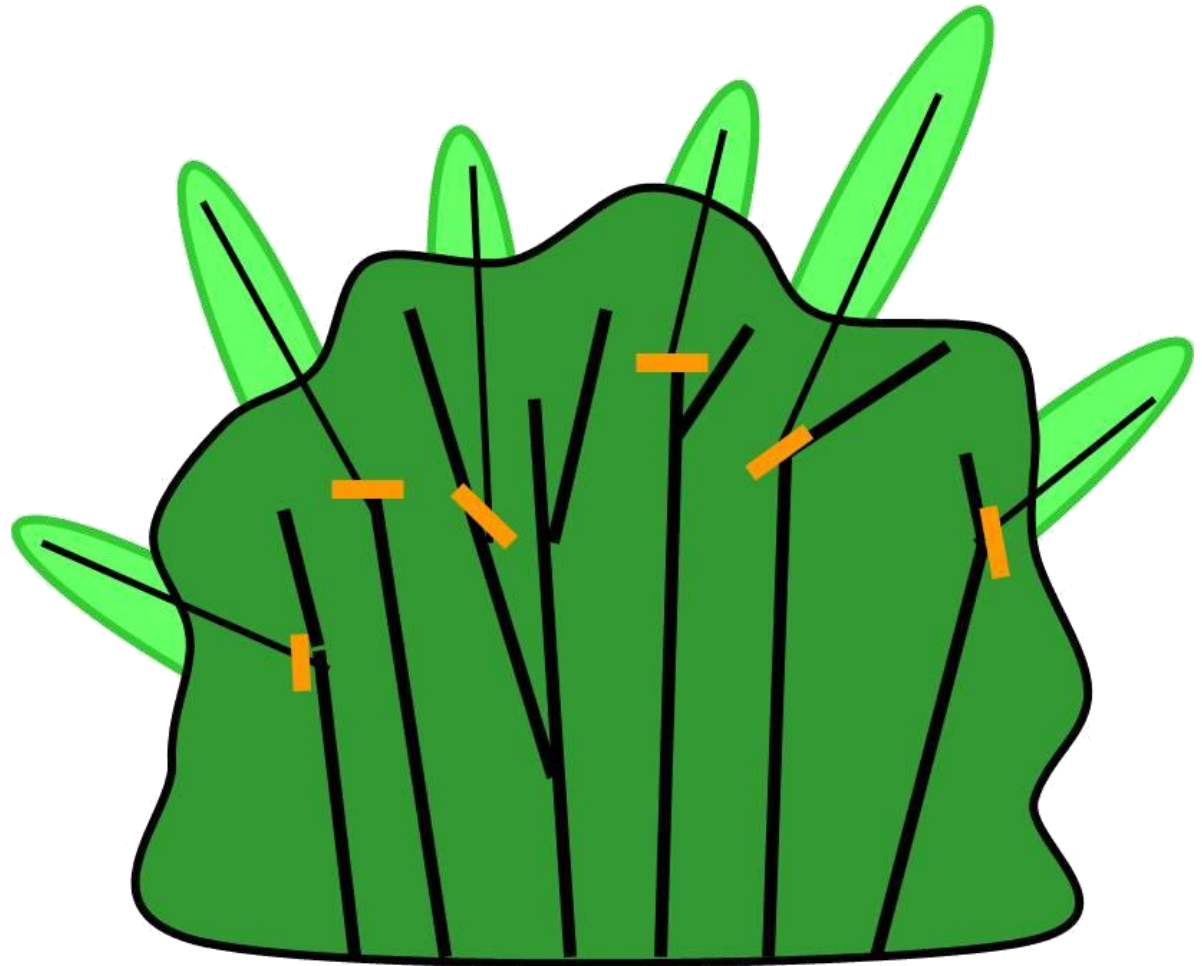
Branch by branch shaping

Reduce branch length back into the shrub's canopy



Branch by branch shaping

Reduce branch length back into the shrub's canopy



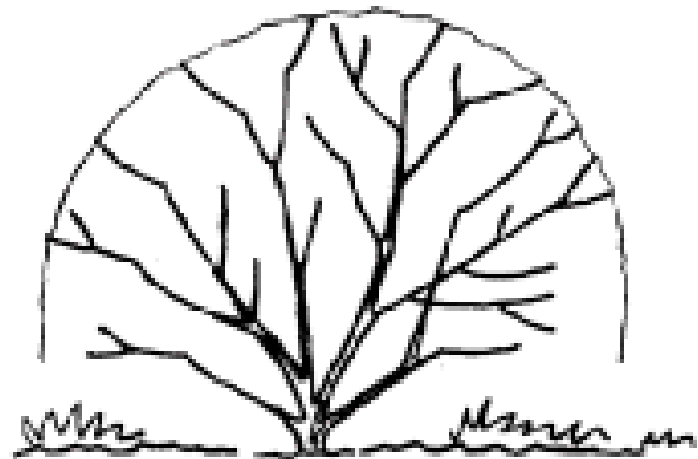
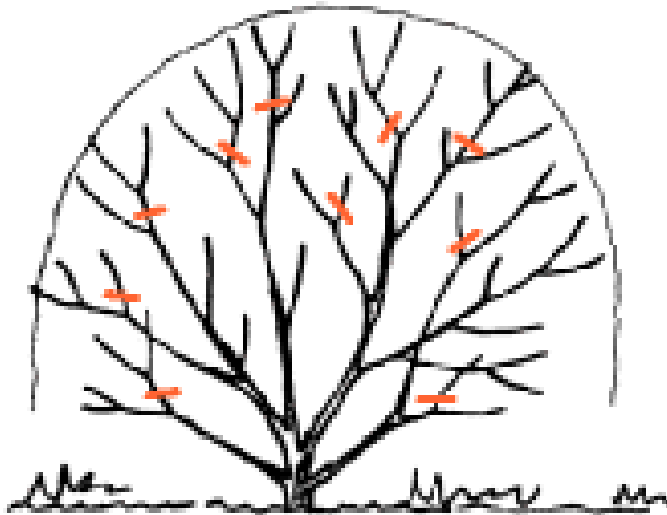
Branch by branch shaping

Uses:

- Keeping plants with uneven habits uniform
- Reducing the size of shrubs (more natural looking than shearing)
- Works for most shrubs

Limitations:

- Over time stems will get thick and woody
- Not optimal for flower production
- Time consuming



Annual thinning (renewal)

- Thin flowering shrubs by removing older branches to the ground.
 - o Rule of 1/3s -- remove up to 1/3 of shrub per year.
 - o 1/3 of the woody stems (not more tender suckers)



Annual thinning











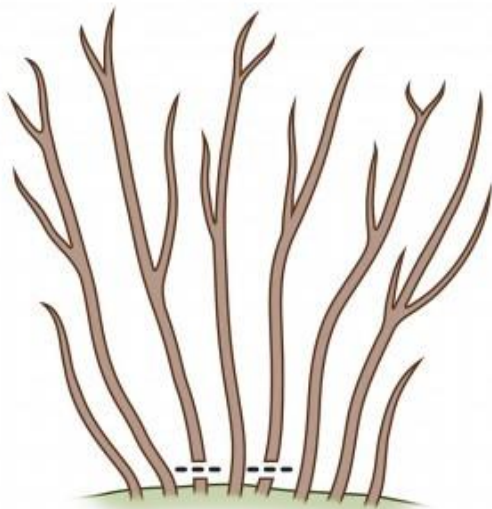
Annual thinning

Uses:

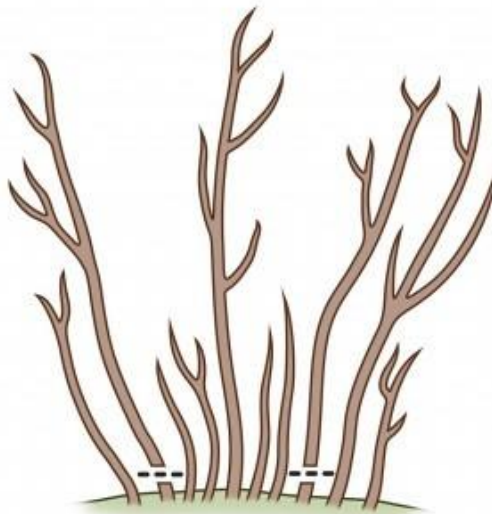
- Encourages new growth from ground

Limitations:

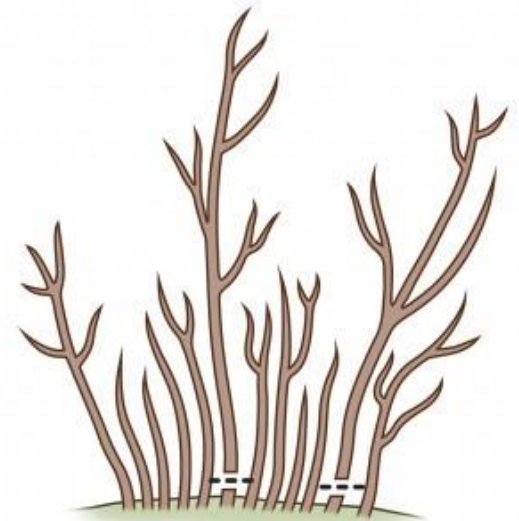
- Overgrown shrubs will still look overgrown
- Time consuming (?)
- Shrubs which have large woody trunks may not respond well.



First Year



Second Year



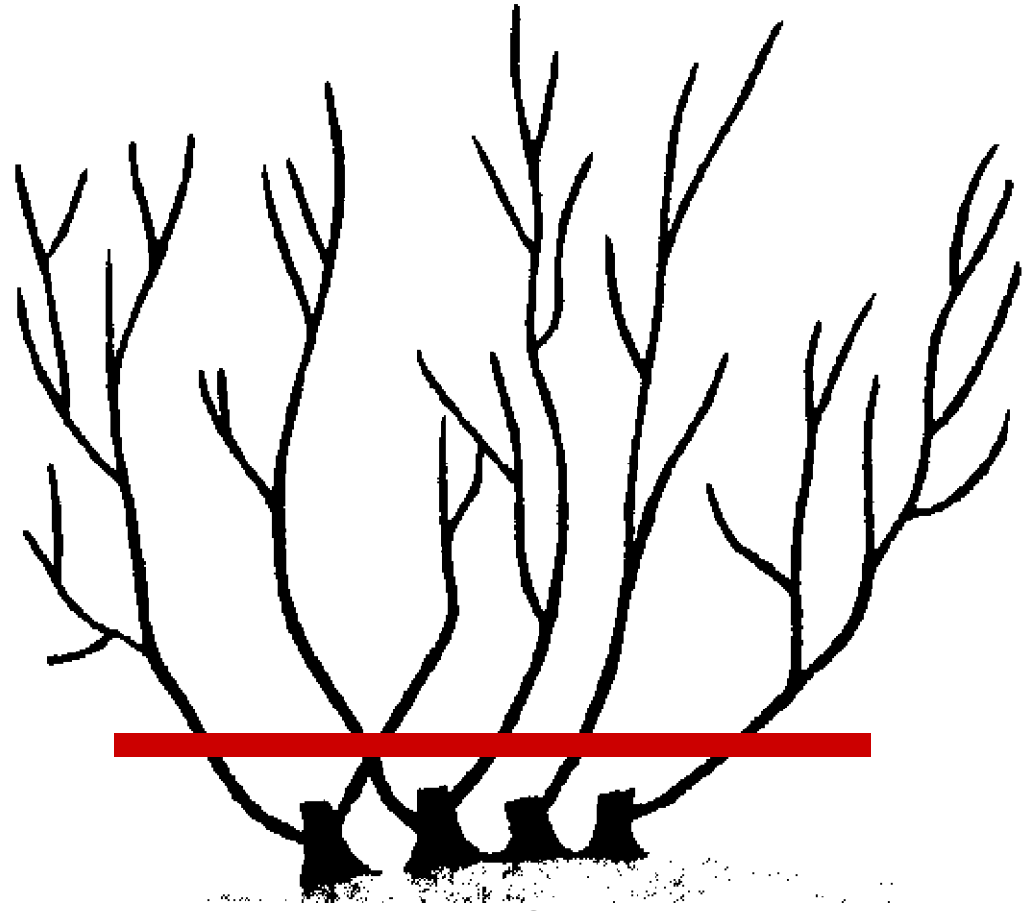
Third Year

Annual thinning



Rejuvenate by cutting to ground

- Prune before growth starts in the spring.



Line drawing: U.S.D.A.

Rejuvenate by cutting to ground



Rejuvenate by cutting to ground











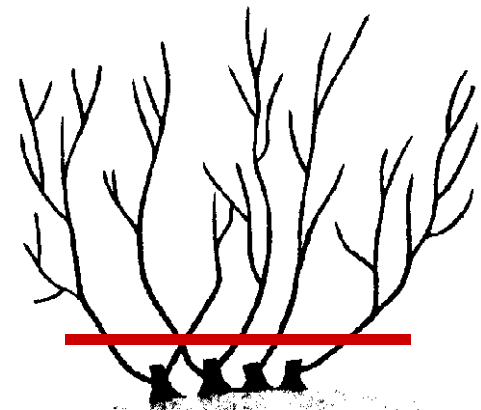
Rejuvenate by cutting to ground

Uses:

- Works great on rapid growing shrubs which naturally have smaller stems.
- Stimulates new growth from base
- Flowing pruning shrub will act “younger”
- Quick and easy(ish)

Limitations:

- Species that have a few large stems may not respond well.
- Can be hard to sell clients on.
- Potential issues preventing regrowth



Line drawing: U.S.D.A.



Rejuvenate by cutting to ground



May not respond well if there are only a few stems which are large

Rejuvenate by cutting to ground

- May have regrowth problems:
 - **Rock mulch or landscape fabric may interfere with re growth**



Rejuvenate by cutting to ground

- May have regrowth problems:
 - **Sun plants in shade**
 - **Plant is under stress**



Replace when shrubs become woody and overgrown

- Replaces pruning costs with re-landscaping costs



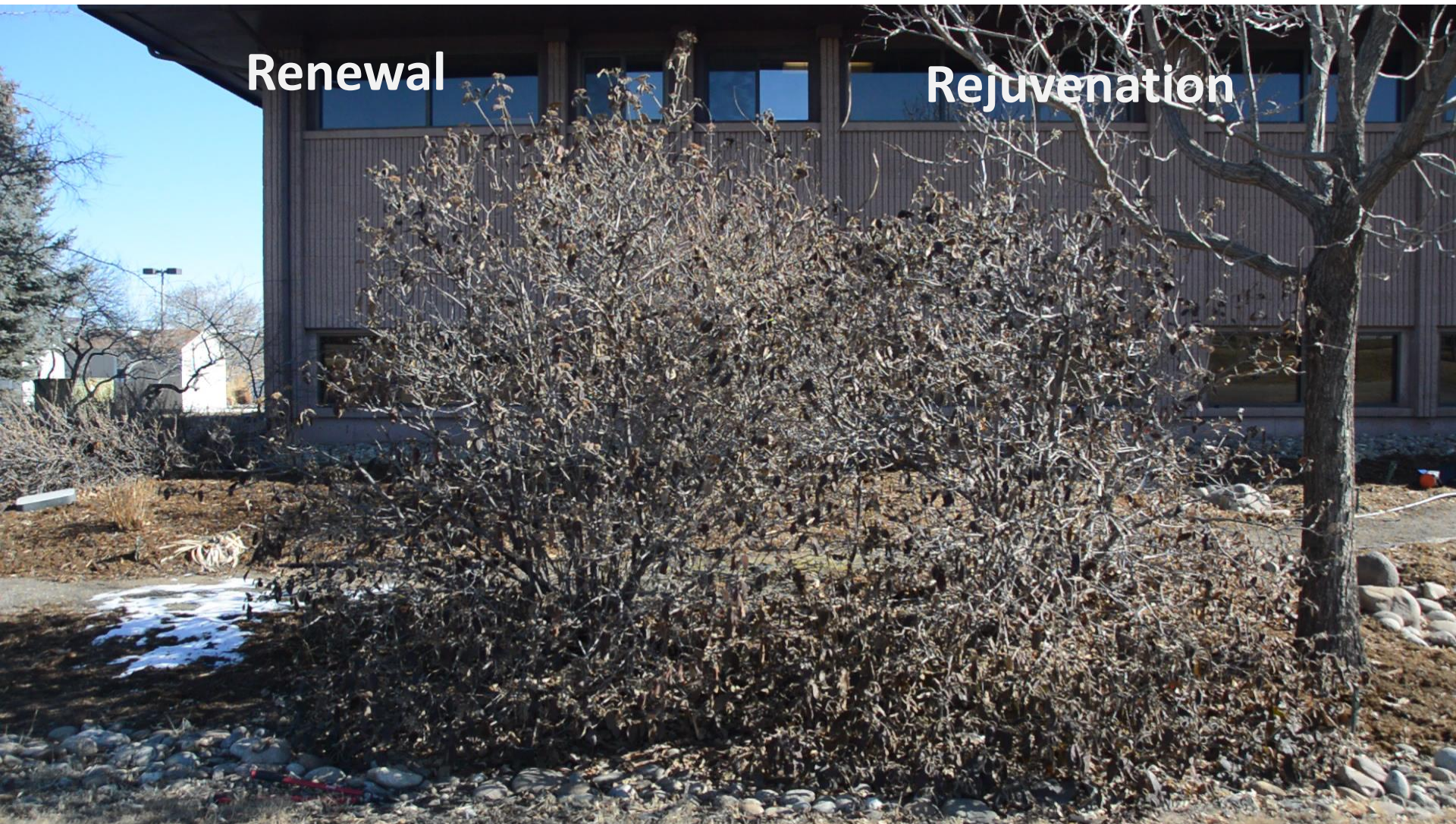
Rejuvenate by cutting to ground

- ✓ Do NOT rejuvenate grafted plants



Renewal

Rejuvenation



Renewal

Rejuvenation



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape



Shear to shape?



Shear to shape

- Quick and easy(?)
- Loses natural shape
- Doesn't encourage new growth for flowering
- Leads to dense outer shell of leaves with woody stems and minimal flowering.



**Shear a
hedge**

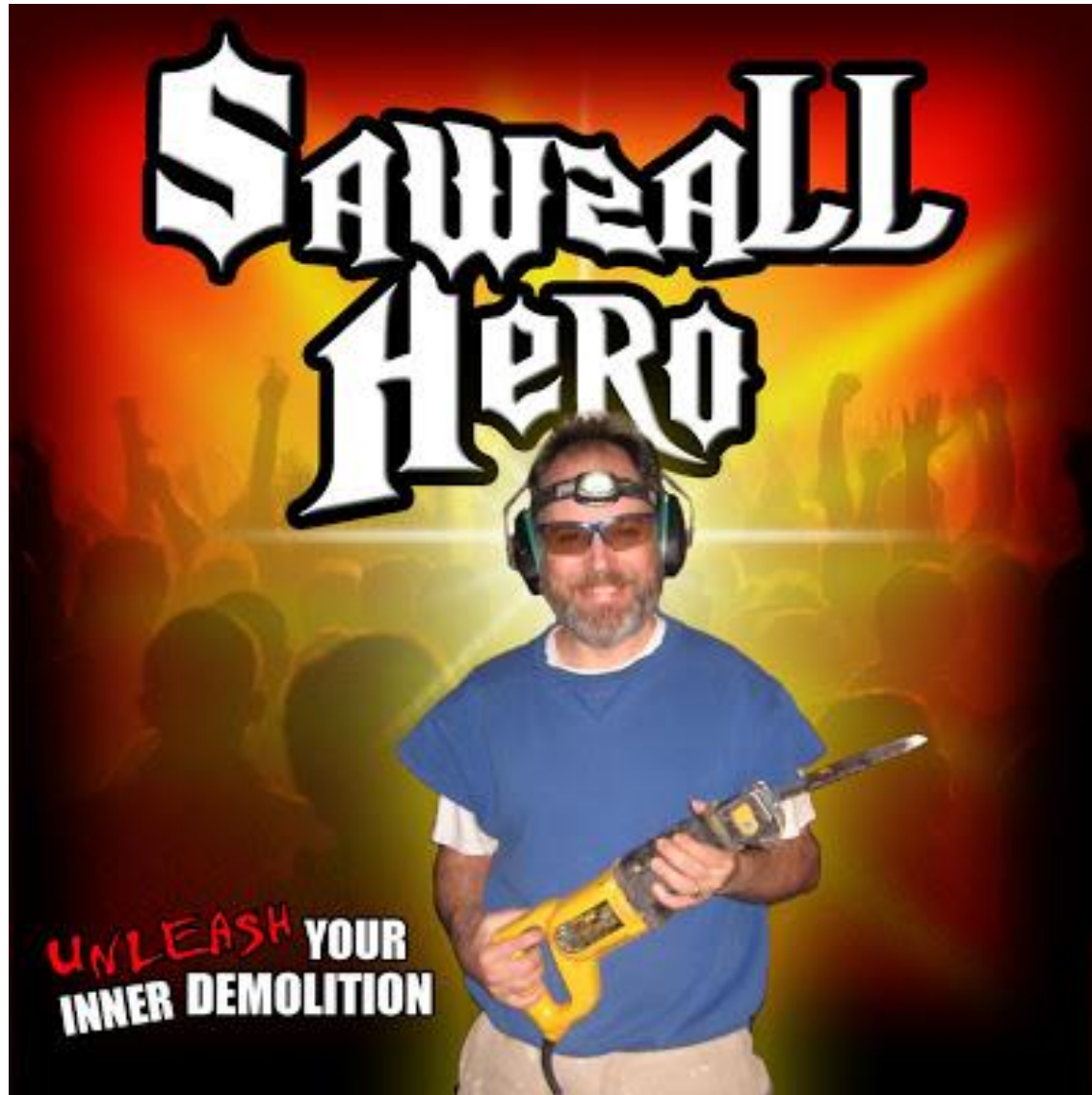


Prune a shrub

Tools



Tools



Questions?

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