



The Backyard Orchard – Citrus – Module 3.2 – Annual Maintenance: Pruning



LSU AgCenter Backyard Orchard Certificate
Course

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Essential Pruning Tools



Hand Pruners – Bypass Best



Loppers – Bypass best. Telescoping.



Pruning Saw - Folding



Pruning Saw – Large, Fixed

Pruning Young Non-Bearing Citrus



- Choose a healthy 2-4' tree. Reputable nursery trees have a good framework when purchased.
- Within the first year, remove the main leader to a point where 3-4 good branches form a wide-angled scaffold.
- This can be from 18" to 36" above ground level.
- All branches below this point should be removed as they appear.

Pruning Older Trees

Reasons for Pruning:

- Maintain size (make the tree fit your space)
- Remove dead, damaged or diseased limbs
- Remove crossing/touching limbs
- Remove water sprouts
- Remove rootstock suckers
- Open the canopy
- Encourage stronger limbs
- Remove limbs touching the ground



Rootstock Suckers



Freeze Damage



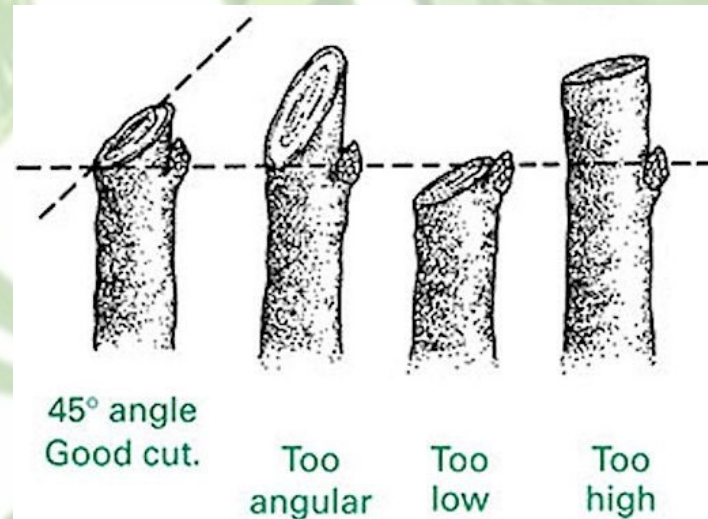
Dead Branch

Pruning Pointers

Prune older trees in January/February

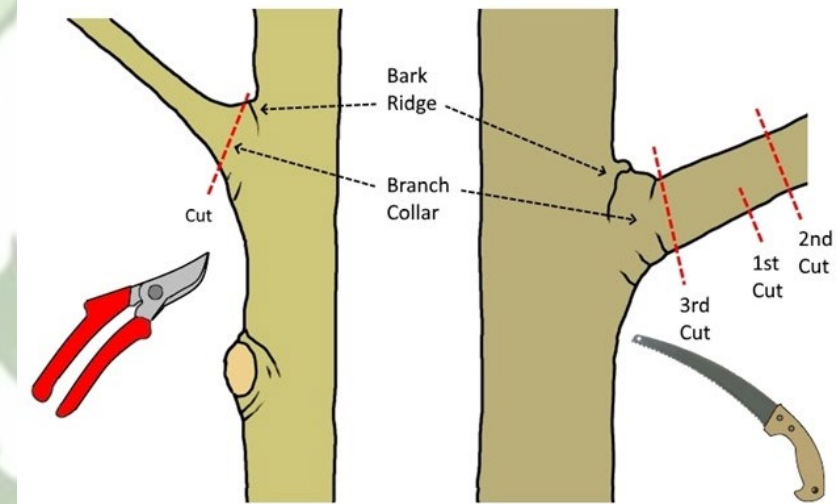


Sterilize Pruners
with 10% Bleach
Solution



Proper Pruning Angle and Bud
Location. Do Not leave stubs!!

Prune smaller branches to the
base. Do not cut branch collar.



Use the 3-Cut Method to Remove Large
Branches



Please post all your questions and results to the message board that was emailed to you.

