2 SIDES TO PRUNING

THERAPY FOR US

STRESS TO PLANTS
WHY STRESS AND RESULTS

- Loses live tissue for photosynthesis
- Opens wounds not normally on tree
- Changes ratio of roots to branches
- Attracts insects with stress pheromones (alcohol)
- Creates old deadwood for fungi to form on, i.e. stub cuts
### RESULTS OF IMPROPER PRUNING

- Increased Insect Infestation
- Disease
- Less Flowering
- Less Fruit
- Improper structure, weak branch Attachments
- Increased Stress on top of Water, Sunlight, Nutrients, ETC.
- Death
STEP 1- SET OBJECTIVE

WHAT ARE YOU PRUNING - TREE OR SHRUB

WHEN ARE YOU PRUNING - TIME OF YEAR

TOOLS REQUIRED FOR TASK

SKILL LEVEL
STEP 2  IDENTIFY OBJECTIVE

- Risk Reduction - Safety
- Manage Health
- Clearance
- Structural Improvement - especially young trees
- Vista
- Aesthetic Improvement
- Restoration or Invigoration
- Coexistence
- Control of Plant Size
- Increase Flowering, Fruiting, Vigor or Value of Conifers, i.e. Christmas trees
- Compensation for Root Loss
STEP 3 - PRUNING METHODS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clean</td>
<td>dead or Diseased limbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise</td>
<td>lower crown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce</td>
<td>height and/or sides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structural</td>
<td>developmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Espalier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollarding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thin</td>
<td>up to 25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm</td>
<td>dead brown Fronds only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Never More Than 25% of live Canopy to be taken*
# Timing of Pruning

## Spring and Fall
According to Shigo (1989) and Neely (1970), the two times you don't want to prune are:

- **Plants that flower during summer or fall on current season’s growth,** IE. Crape myrtle or roses - prune in winter.
- **Plants that flower during spring on 1 year old wood,** IE. Fruit trees, azaleas - prune after blooming period.

## Weather
Pruning too close to spring can cause extreme sap flow or “bleeding.”
ESPALIER
PROPER STRUCTURAL PRUNING

Before pruning

C
A

Light pruning

Previously shaded by stem A

A reduction cut removes this stem
Branch bark ridge
Keep this branch

Moderate pruning

A heading cut also shortens a stem or branch
CUTTING BACK

Figure 15–6  Thinning-out is removing a branch at its point of origin or shortening a branch or trunk by cutting to a lateral large enough to assume the terminal role, commonly called “drop-crotch.” This applies to mature (left) as well as young (right) trees.
IDENTIFYING PROPER PRUNING CUTS
TOTTING OR LION'S TAILING
Topping is not a valid practice.
ALSO NOOOO CRAPE MURDER!!!!!!
FOR THE RECORD, THIS IS BAD
PROPER PRUNING CRAPEMYRTLES

SINGLE STEM

MULTI-STEM
SHEARING OF SHRUBS
PROPER BRANCHING AND LESS WOUNDS
SAFETY GEAR
SAFETY PPE

- HARDHAT
- GLOVES
- SAFETY GLASSES
- HEARING PROTECTION
- CHAINSAW CHAPS
- GOOD FOOTWEAR-TRACTION
- NO LADDERS!!!!!!-90,000 INJURIES A YEAR, 700 OCCUPATIONAL DEATHS/YEAR
TOOLS TO PROPERLY PRUNE

- HANDSAW
- HANDSNIPS (NOT ANVIL STYLE, SCISSOR STYLE SIMILAR TO FELCO)
- LOPPERS
- POLE SNIPS
- SHEARS?
- CHAINSAW
- POWER POLE PRUNER
KNOW YOUR LIMITS
### KNOW WHO TO HIRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIDE JOB BOB</th>
<th>PROFESSIONAL PETE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• DOES IT PART TIME</td>
<td>• HOLDS CREDENTIALS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• OWNS A LIFTED PICKUP TRUCK</td>
<td>• WEARS SAFETY GEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• USES THE WORDS <strong>BONDED AND INSURED</strong></td>
<td>• ACTS IN PROPER BUSINESS FASHION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• NO SAFETY GEAR</td>
<td>• LOGO WEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• WILL DO IT FOR $100 LESS THAN ANYBODY ELSE</td>
<td><strong>KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PROCESS</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ONE MORE TIME!!

**PROPER METHOD OF PRUNING Crape MYRTLE**

This plant, pictured before pruning, needs to have all weak and dead stems removed.

**IMPROPER METHOD OF PRUNING Crape MYRTLE**

Cutting at the dotted line is the usual course taken by those who prune shrubs.

Same shrub after removal of weak and interfering wood and base sucker growth.

The same plant after bad pruning, as indicated above. The sucker growth remains.

Results of proper pruning are graceful, vigorous growth with distinctive shape.

Results: the lovely natural shape of the shrub is lost, and bloom will be sparse.
ANY QUESTIONS?