



Thank you for joining us. Please feel free to print the slides and add your own notes.

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## Pruning Basics

1. Why Prune?
2. Tools of the trade
3. When to Prune
  - a. Elms – the exception
4. Tree Shapes
5. Making the cut
  - a. Fruit trees
  - b. Conifers
  - c. Practice makes perfect



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## Why should you prune your trees?

Pruning isn't hard to do, it just takes some planning and understanding with what you want to accomplish.

**Determine the reason why you need to prune.**

- Structure/shape
- Remove dead, dying or diseased branches
- Clearance from buildings etc.
- Safety reasons
- Encourage flower/fruit growth
- Being a good neighbour



"First time pruning?"

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## Tools of the Trade

- Hand Pruner
- Lopping Shears
- Pruning Saws
- Pole Pruners
- Chain Saws

***Remember  
Safety First!***



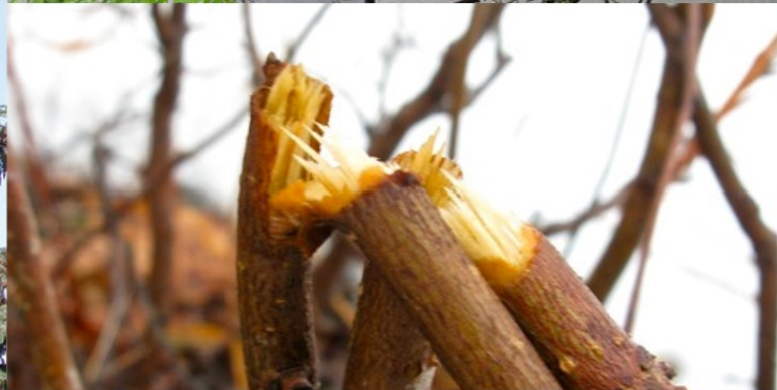
### Notes:

1. Hand Pruners—use to cut branches up to 3/4" in diameter.
2. Lopping Shears—use to cut branches up to 1 3/4" in diameter.
3. Pruning Saw—for use on branches larger than 1 3/4". Use fine toothed saw for branches up to 2 1/2" and use a course toothed saw from branches 2 1/2" and larger.
4. Pole Pruners—for use on branches up to 2" in diameter and to high to reach safely from the ground.
5. Chainsaw - generally if this is the tool that is needed for the job then it is time to call a ISA certified arborist.

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## When to Prune

- Newly planted trees
- Deciduous
- Apple/Pear Trees
- Coniferous Trees
- Triple “D”



### NOTES:

1. Newly Planted Trees—you should wait to do any structural pruning for 3—5 year. It takes this long for the new root system to become established.
  2. Deciduous—prune in late winter to early spring (Feb—April) before the sap starts to flow. This time of year makes it easier to see the shape and structure of the tree.
  3. Fruit/Flowering—want to prune after the last frost but before the sap starts to flow. Late winter is best.
  4. Coniferous—should be done minimally. Prune Spruce/Fir trees in late winter and Pine trees in the summer.
- Removal of dead/damaged/diseased branches can be done at any time of the year.

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## ELM TREES

One Triple-D exception:

### Dutch Elm Disease

- What is Dutch Elm Disease?
- Why do we care about Dutch Elm Disease?
- Signs of Disease
- Pruning Ban
- Treatment

## Help keep Alberta Dutch Elm Disease free.

### DON'T PRUNE ELM TREES FROM APRIL 1 TO SEPT 30

The elm bark beetle, which transports the DED fungus, is attracted to fresh wounds on elm trees. The Alberta elm pruning ban prohibits pruning when the beetles are most active.

- Do not store elm wood
- Ensure wood is properly disposed of at a landfill or by burying, chipping, or burning it immediately



### Prevention starts at home.

[www.stoppeded.org](http://www.stoppeded.org) • 1-877-837-ELMS (3567)



Government  
of Alberta

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## What shape is your tree?

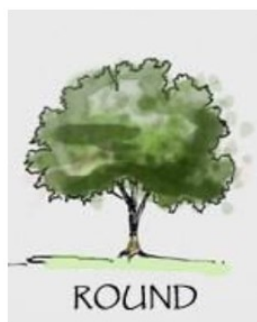
Knowing the shape of your tree can help you to determine which branches need to be pruned.





## What shape is your tree?

Knowing the shape of your tree can help you to determine which branches need to be pruned.



**NOTES:**

Trees in order as shown in slideshow

1. Larch
2. Columnar Aspen
3. Cutleaf Weeping Birch
4. American Elm
5. Paper Birch
6. Thunderchild Crabapple
7. Hawthorn
8. Schubert Chokecherry



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## Making the Cut - Prep

Before making the first cut look at your tree for the following.

1. Natural Shape
2. Structure
3. Crossing/Rubbing branches
4. Suckering
5. Dead or Diseased

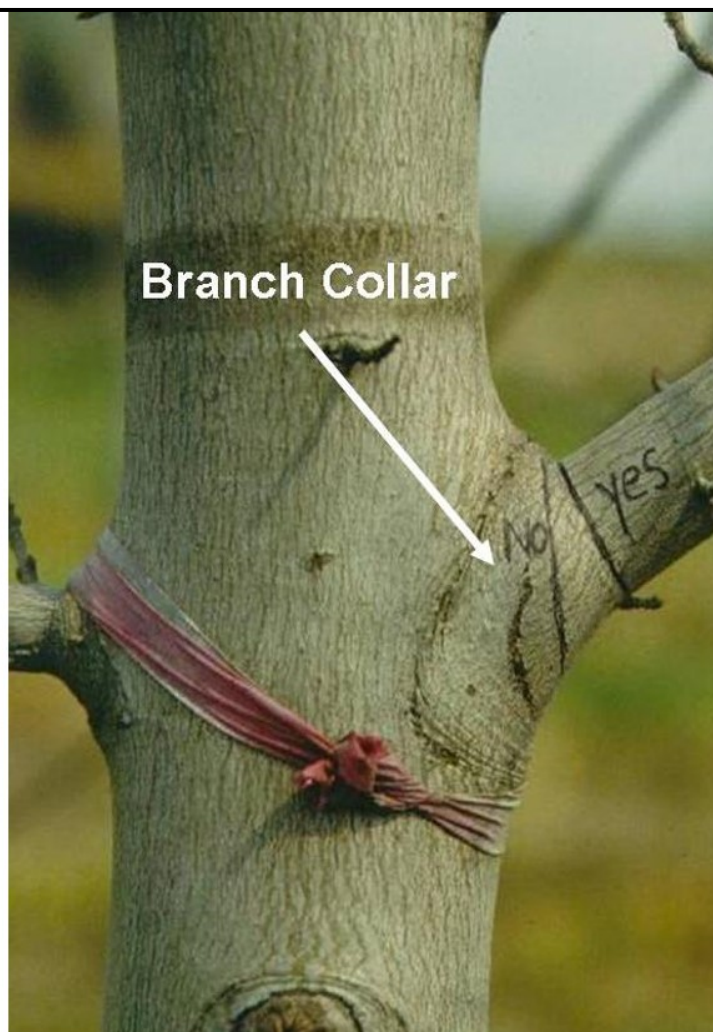


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## Making the Cut

1. The Proper Cut
  - I. Branch from main trunk
  - II. Branch Reduction
2. Three Point Cut



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## Apple & Pear Trees

Norland Apple



© Spruce It Up Garden Centre



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Golden Spice Pear

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## Coniferous Trees

- Spruce/Fir Trees
- Pine Trees

<https://crataegus.com/2016/04/14/big-difference-between-decandling-and-breaking-pine-shoots/>

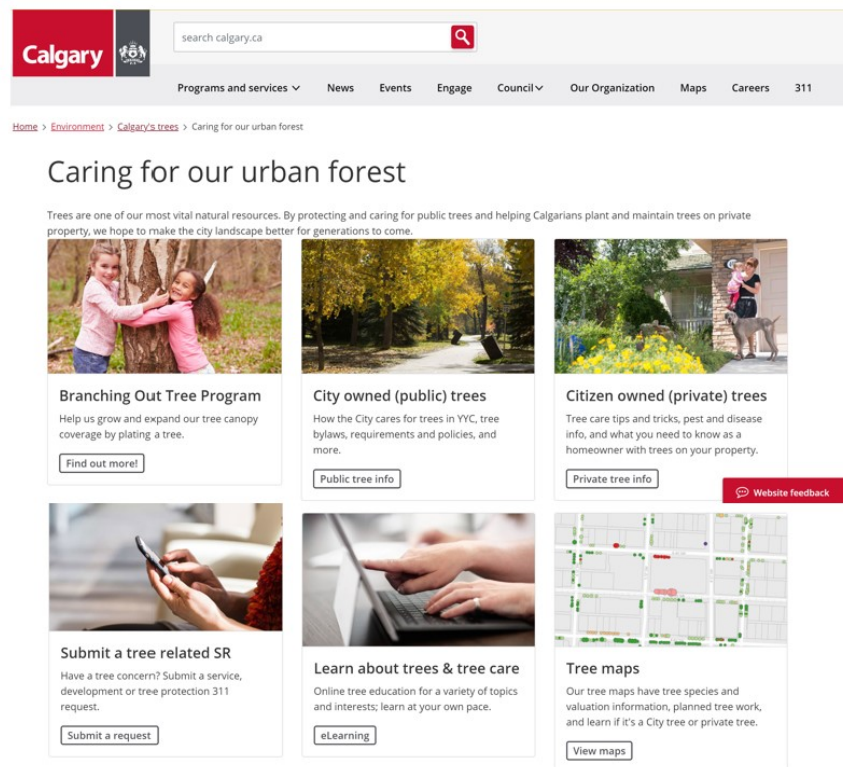


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For More Information:

[www.calgary.ca/trees](http://www.calgary.ca/trees)



Links to further information:

- [Calgary.ca/trees](http://Calgary.ca/trees)
- [Your Tree, Year Round eLearning Module](#)
- [Society to prevent Dutch Elm Disease](#)
- [International Society of Arboriculture](#)
- [Video: Carol O'Meara: Apple Tree Pruning](#)
- [Why hire an arborist?](#)