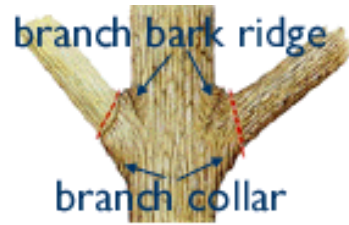


FRUIT TREE PRUNING SESSION

Whether the tree is large or small, **the key is to prune the unwanted branch while protecting the stem or trunk wood of the tree.**

All pruning cuts should be made on the branch side of this stem collar

To prevent tearing of the bark and stem wood, particularly in the case of larger branches or V crotch, use the following procedure:



1. Make a small wedge shaped cut on the underside of the branch just on the branch side of the stem collar. This will break the bark at that point and prevent a tear from running along the bark and stem tissue.
2. Somewhat farther along the branch, starting at the top of the branch, cut all the way through the branch leaving a stub end.
3. Finally, make a third cut parallel to and just on the branch side of the of the stem collar to reduce the length of the stub as much as possible.

Cut thin diameter branches $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above a bud that is facing in a direction you want the new branch to grow. Make the cut on an angle to shed water and promote faster healing.

References:

UC/ANR

- Over all tips http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/The_Big_Picture/Pruning_&_Training/
10 Basics of how and when to prune fruit trees - <http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu/files/27164.pdf>
Pruning overgrown fruit trees: <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/8058.pdf>
Pruning Deciduous Fruit trees: <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/8057.pdf>

Other

- <http://www.treehelp.com/howto/howto-prune-a-tree.asp>
<http://modernfarmer.com/2015/02/right-cut/>
Citrus Pruning <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/crops/az1455.pdf>

Master Gardeners of Alameda County website <http://acmg.ucanr.edu/>

Master Gardener Help Desk

Hotline: 510-670-5645

Email: anrmgalameda@ucanr.edu

Local sites where you can ask MG's in person:

Farmers Market:

- Pleasanton Sat mornings Mar-Sept
- Livermore 1st & 3rd Thurs May – Sept

Livermore Demo Garden 2nd Saturday every month 930-1130 year round

FRUIT TREE PRUNING SESSION

STONE FRUITS *Prunus* http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts

apricots, cherries, plums, prunes, peaches, nectarines as well as Almonds

General:

- Use using open center system
- Remove old, broken, diseased branches
- Thin fruit to 4-6" apart when ¼" in size

APRICOT

- Prune trees **before onset of winter** rains to prevent *Eutypa* fungus (apricot dieback fungus) infection of pruning wounds.
- Remove about 20% last year's growth to let light into tree.
- Fruit buds along short shoots/spurs

Plum

- Winter-Thin branches out approx 20 % to increase light penetration.
- Thin to reduce crop load
- DO NOT shorten tips of the shoots

NECTARINE/PEACHES

- Winter-Prune out 50% of last year's wood to thin the crop, insure good shoot growth and fruiting potential for future years.
- Remove vigorous upright shoots
- Fruit buds along long shoots

PEARS http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/Pear/ APPLE http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/apple

- Fruit buds bear off terminal ends of fruit spurs
- Prune 20% last year's growth to let light in.
- Remove diseased (fire blighted) and broken limbs.
- In spring -Thin pears to 6" apart if crop is heavy.

PERSIMMON http://homeorchard.ucanr.edu/Fruits_&_Nuts/Persimmon/

Prune trees to develop a strong framework of main branches while the tree is young. Otherwise the fruit, which is **borne at the tips of the branches**, may be too heavy and cause breakage. A regular program of removal of some new growth and heading others each year will improve structure and reduce alternate bearing. An open vase system is probably best. Even though the trees grow well on their own, persimmons can be pruned heavily as a hedge, as a screen, or to control size. They even make a nice espalier. Cut young trees back to 1/2 high (or about 3 feet) at the time of planting.

FIG TREES <http://www.crfg.org/pubs/ff/fig.html>

Productive with or without heavy pruning. It is essential only during the initial years. Trees should be trained according to use of fruit, such as a low crown for fresh-market figs. Since the crop is **borne on terminals of previous year's wood**, once the tree form is established, avoid heavy winter pruning, which causes loss of the following year's crop. It is better to prune immediately after the main crop is harvested, or with late-ripening cultivars, summer prune half the branches and prune the remainder the following summer. If radical pruning is done, whitewash the entire tree.