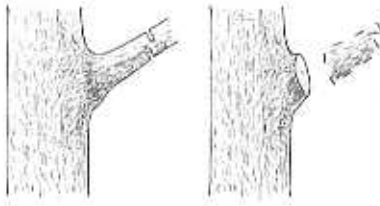


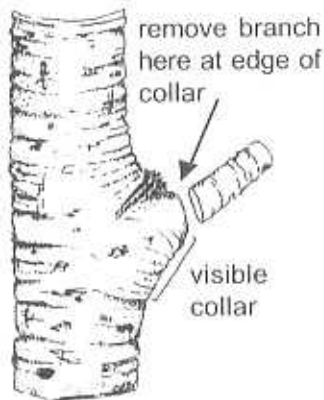
Pruning Techniques



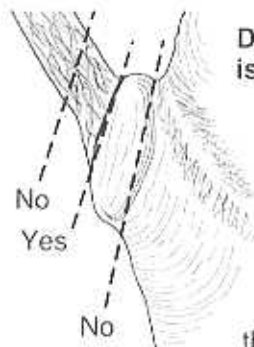
Remove a large limb by making three cuts. Make the first cut on the bottom of the branch about 300 mm (12 in.) from the branch attachment (left). Make the second cut on the top of the branch within 25 mm (1 in.) of the under cut. Make the final cut just beyond the outer portion of the collar and the branch bark ridge (right).



Remove a branch with a sharp "V" crotch in a similar three-step process being aware that the actual union of the two branches is often much lower than the apparent junction. The cut should be at a 40° to 50° angle from the horizontal.



Make the pruning cut just outside the edge of the visible collar. The collar is the swollen area at the base of the branch. If you make the cut here, the branch protection zone remains intact, and decay usually is excluded from the trunk. If the cut is made closer to the trunk, the protection zone is removed, and decay and cracks could occur in the trunk. Do not leave a stub beyond the collar. Leaving a stub could result in the spread of decay into the trunk.



Dead branch removal is a health treatment!

But, do not remove the ring of living wood that surrounds the dead branch. Dead wood is an energy source for the fungi that grow into trees.