PRUNING

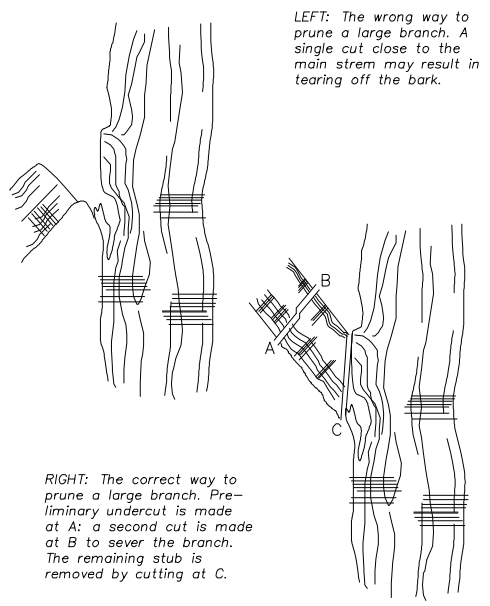
Most trees require some pruning to control growth and adapt them to particular landscape uses. Proper pruning will control branch height, symmetry of the crown, crowding of main branches, and will eliminate weak crotches. Trees are also pruned to prevent property damage. During construction work the primary purpose of pruning is to preserve the health and vigor of the tree. In most cases damage to the roots can be offset by careful pruning of the crown. During pruning, appearance should also be considered.

In compensating for root damage the aim is to leave a vigorous dense crown, decreased only in overal size. Approximately half as much crown should be removed as root system damaged. For example, if 1/2 the root system is damaged, approximately 1/4 of the crown should be removed.

EXCEPTION:
Pines should not be pruned other than to remove dead, diseased, or hazardous branches.

The following guidelines are suggested to encourage the healthy survival of trees retained.

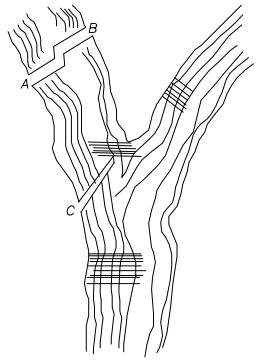
1. *Remove dead, dying, or unsightly tree parts.*
2. *Remove sprouts growing at or near the base of trunk.*
3. *Remove branches that grow toward the center of the tree.*
4. *Remove crossed branches.*
5. *Remove V-crotches. If possible to do so without ruining the appearance, remove weakest member forming the V.*
6. *Remove "Nuisance" growth, cut out branches that are likely to interfere with electric or telephone wires. Remove branches that shade street lights or block the view in streets.*
7. *Remove lower limbs that shade the lawn excessively.*
8. *Properly prune lower branches that may interfere with machinery to avoid broken and damaged limbs.*
9. *All roots measuring 3" or greater in diameter should be pruned clean with no jagged/shredded ends.*
10. *Utilize compact machinery around treed areas to minimize disturbance to tree trunks and roots.*



LEFT: The wrong way to prune a large branch. A single cut close to the main strem may result in tearing off the bark.

RIGHT: The correct way to prune a large branch. Preliminary undercut is made at A: a second cut is made at B to sever the branch. The remaining stub is removed by cutting at C.

PRUNING OF LARGE BRANCH



Removal of V-shaped crotch. A preliminary undercut is made at A and the second cut at B to remove the major part of the branch. The final cut (C) slants up to the point of union of the two limbs.

REMOVAL OF V-SHAPED CROTCH

DRAWING NO. TD-16

SHEET NO. 5 OF 6

TREE PROTECTION
TYPICAL DETAILS

Hillsborough County Florida

TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL MANUAL

REVISION DATE :