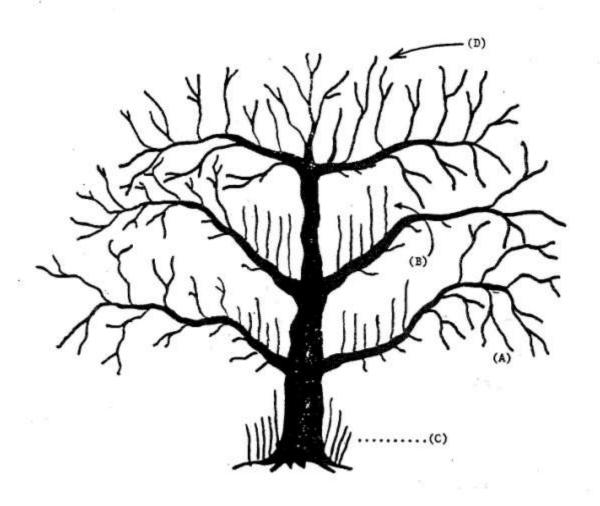
PRUNING FRUIT TREES



- 1. Remove all weak branches that area shaded out (A)
- Remove water sprouts in July of growing season or prune out when dormant (B)
- 3. Remove sucker growth around base of tree in July or when dormant (C)
- 4. Head back top growth to regulate size of tree (D)

WHY PRUNE?

- To increase the vigor of fruit trees.
- 2. To allow spray materials to penetrate increasing coverage of leaf and fruit surfaces.
- 3. Increase the size of fruit by permitting sunlight to penetrate foliage.
- 4. To shape and lower the height of fruit trees.
- 5. To prune out diseased and/or dead branches.
- 6. To induce fruit bud set when done in July on some fruits.
- 7. To eliminate weak branches shaded out by other branches.
- 8. To remove water sprouts and suckers.
- 9. To maximize efficiency of sprayers, dusters, and fruit harvesting equipment.
- To reduce labor costs in pruning and harvesting of fruits.

WHEN TO PRUNE?

- 1. Normally during dormant season for general pruning.
- 2. Summer pruning in June to reduce the size of the tree by limiting growth.
- 3. In July to induce fruit bud set for the following season.

TOOLS TO USE

- A curved pruning saw.
- 2. Two handled lopper with arms at least 3' long.
- 3. A hand set of pruning shears.
- 4. A good steady ladder, step or extension type.
- The above suggestons pertain primarily to apple trees.

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