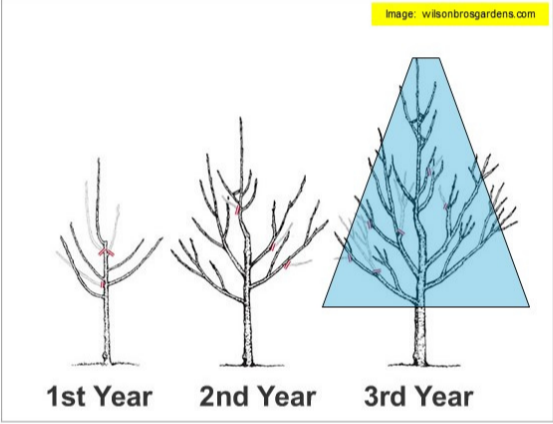

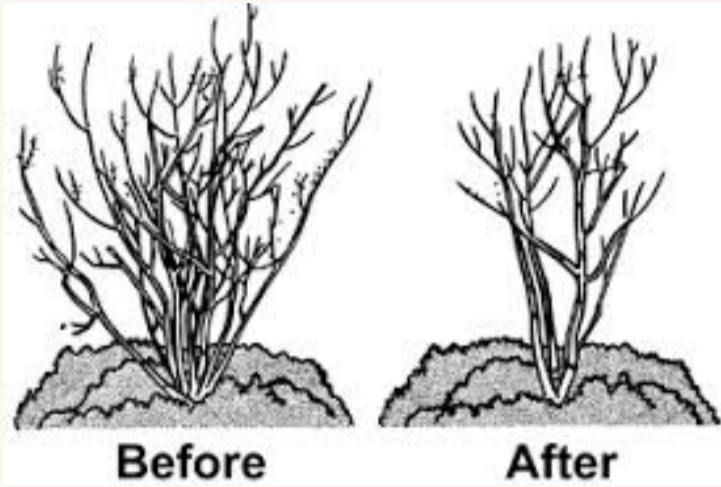


# Late Winter/Early Spring Pruning Guide Sheet

Tips on how to prune fruit trees!

## Trees to Structure Prune in Winter

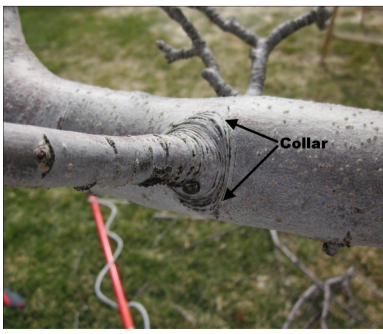
Species	Overall Shape	Tips
Any!	You can remove dead wood from trees anytime of the year to enhance growth!	
Apples & Pears	<p>Best to start pruning in the trees' 2nd or 3rd year of life to ensure stability.</p> <h3>Modified Central Leader Pruning</h3>  <p>Apple, Pear, Pecan, Persimmon Bloom from 2-year old wood</p> <p>These trees like to have one, central leader, with scaffold branches (the branches that will bear shoots with fruiting buds) at app. 45 degrees.</p> <p>The overall shape to aim for is a pyramidal-shape</p>	<p>When buds have emerged, but leaves are not present &amp; tree is still in dormancy; that's the best time to do your structural pruning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove Dead wood and diseased wood, if present</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> crossing-over branches</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> "competing leaders" of trees that need ONE central leader</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> ½ the length of shoots with terminal buds (this prune will activate more dormant bud growth)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove branches growing downward, or straight upward towards the canopy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If two branches are growing in the same direction, and will eventually be competing for space, or cross over each other, cut the branch that you think will have less longevity</li> </ul>
Paw Paw	Ideally, Paw Paws need only minimal structural pruning once established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Remove lower limbs to prevent fruit growth close to the ground</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> remove crossing over branches or congested shoots, <b>especially before the buds break</b></li> </ul>
Sour Cherries	<p>Ideal shape: Open vase-like tree shape, with lateral scaffold branches &amp; one central leader</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> remove any competing leaders</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> prune vertical branches moving straight, or growing towards center trunk</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> remove any broken or hanging branches</li> </ul> <p>*** The more lateral the branch is, (perpendicular to the trunk) the better it will be to produce sour cherry fruits!</p>

<p><b>Service berry</b></p>	<p>You'll want prune only weak, diseased, or broken stems until maturation (3-4 years), then rigorous structural pruning to replace fruit-bearing wood branches every 3-4 years is OK.</p>  <p><b>Before</b>                      <b>After</b></p> <p>Overall shape to aim for if trying to prune this shrub into a tree, with broader growth on top &amp; presence of a multi-stem trunk at the base.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Structure pruning; prune lower branches to create a multi-stem tree vs. a woody shrub (Do NOT make your cuts flesh to it's trunk)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Tip: thin back top branches in mid may to rejuvenate berry growth on older wood</li> </ul>
<p><b>Plums*</b></p>	<p>Although it may seem intuitive to prune during it's dormant season, it's actually more ideal to prune in late spring/early summer</p>	<p>-Plums are highly prone to fungal infections. Waiting until it's warm means less fungal spores currently in the air (you can remove dead wood in winter)</p>

<p><b>General Pruning guidelines</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>ALWAYS make your cuts ABOVE the branch collar to ensure the tree will heal</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Prune back all suckers if you want the tree to stay the same size and focus energy on fruit production</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>NEVER prune more than 1/3 of woody material in one sitting (many recommend not going over 1/4 even)</p>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Your first cut should remove extra weight first, then undercut, then final cut</p>



Quick Vocab Terms

<p>Shoot</p>	<p>1 year old unbranched growth</p>
<p>Branch Collar</p>	<p>The "shoulder" between the branch and trunk of woody plants; the inflammation formed at the base of the branch is caused by annually overlapping trunk tissue. You want to always make your pruning cuts AHEAD of the collar</p> 

Stem/Branch	2-4 year old woody growth and connected to the trunk
Suckers	Growth originating from the lower portion of the stem, or exposed roots. Suckers left will become future branches
Terminal/Apical Buds	Large fat bud at end of a shoot. Stops growth of dormant buds located on same shoot