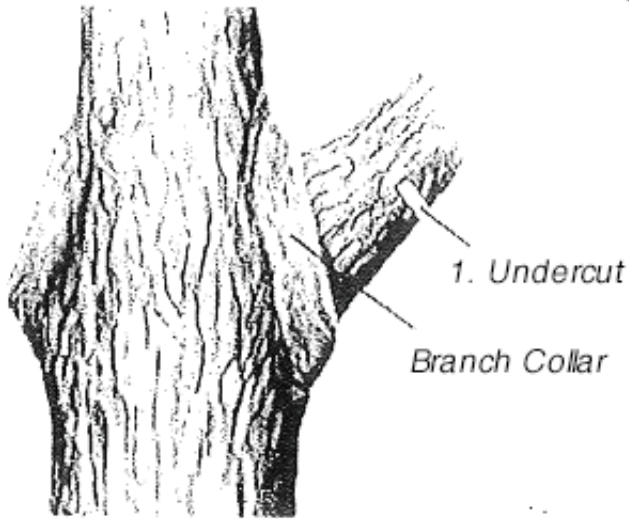
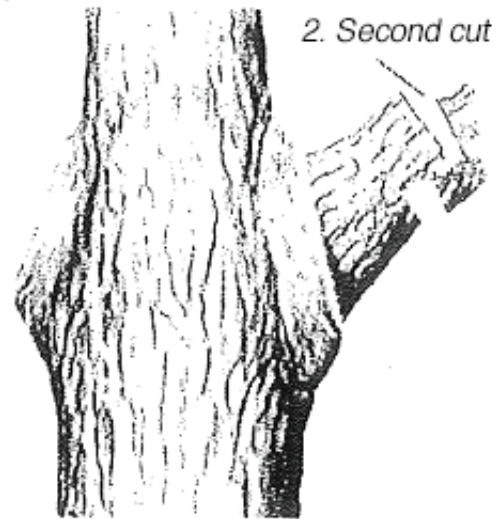


Tree Trimming - Proper Branch Removal

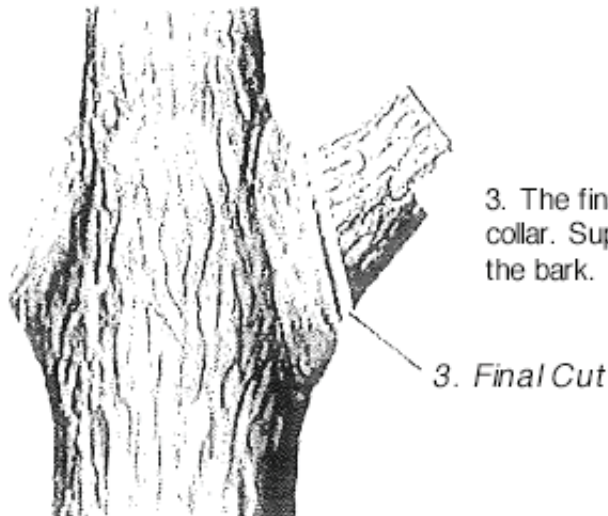
1. Undercut 12"-24" up from the branch collar. This stops the bark from tearing.



2. Make the second cut from the top all the way through the branch, 2-3" above cut #1.



3. The final cut should be just beyond the branch collar. Support the stub so it does not tear back the bark.



If you determine the tree should stay but needs damage pruned away, remove large damaged branches with the 3 cut method to avoid stripping bark off the side of the tree. Undercut the branch first, 18" out from the trunk, followed by cutting down from the top, 20" out from the trunk, until the branch falls. Then remove the remaining stub to within an inch or two of the trunk. If the tree is leaning, small trees can be pulled upright and secured with 6' steel t-posts, with the tree tied to the post with a soft material, or wire cushioned with hose, being sure the loop around the tree is large enough not to constrict the growth of the trunk.

Larger trees will need 2'x4' stakes driven into the ground, or maybe even steel earth anchors, like used to tie down sheds or mobile homes. Before lifting the tree up straight, soak the ground around the roots so the roots can slip through the soil back to an upright position instead of being held back and maybe broken off by hard dry soil. Until you get to the process of raising the tree or shrub, don't keep the roots flooded, but do keep the roots moist, and if small roots are exposed, maybe even cover them with some shade, like burlap.