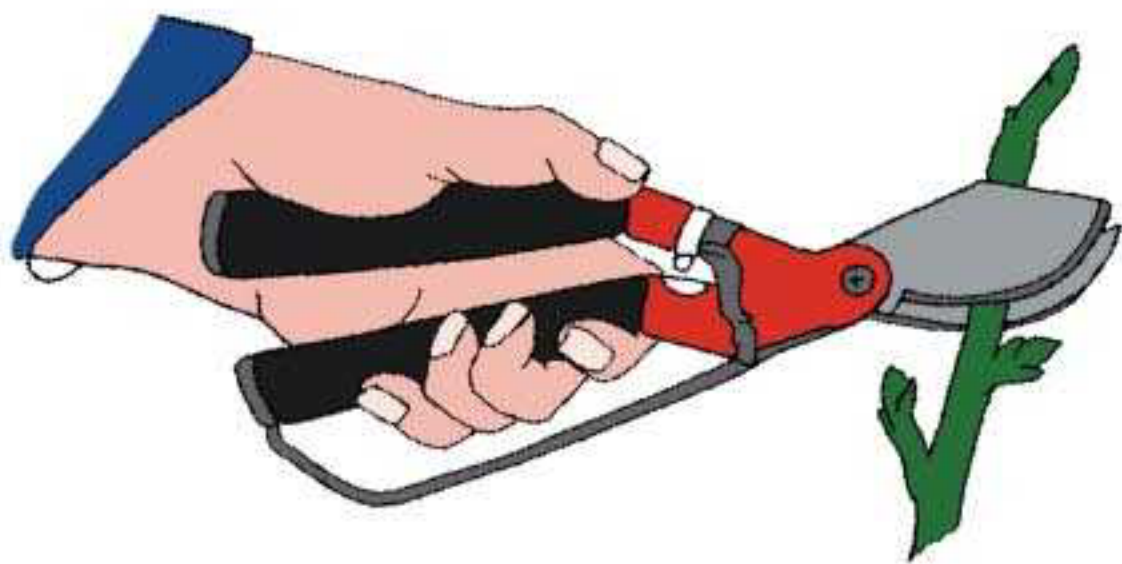


CORRECT CUT - CORRECT TOOL

Select pruning tools based on the size of the branch to be removed. Purchase ergonomically-designed (body-friendly) pruning tools that are lightweight & well balanced. Look for natural blade-to-handle attachment angles and larger handles with grip contouring and soft, slip-resistant surfaces. Do not "force" cuts with pruners that are too small or incorrect for the job. The correct tool makes pruning easy for you and your plants.

Hand Pruners and Loppers

(branches up to 3/4" diameter)



Heading Cuts (partial branch removal): Heading stimulates growth of buds closest to the cut. The direction in which the bud directly below the cut is pointing will determine the direction of new growth. Make heading cuts selectively to reduce height and retain natural form.

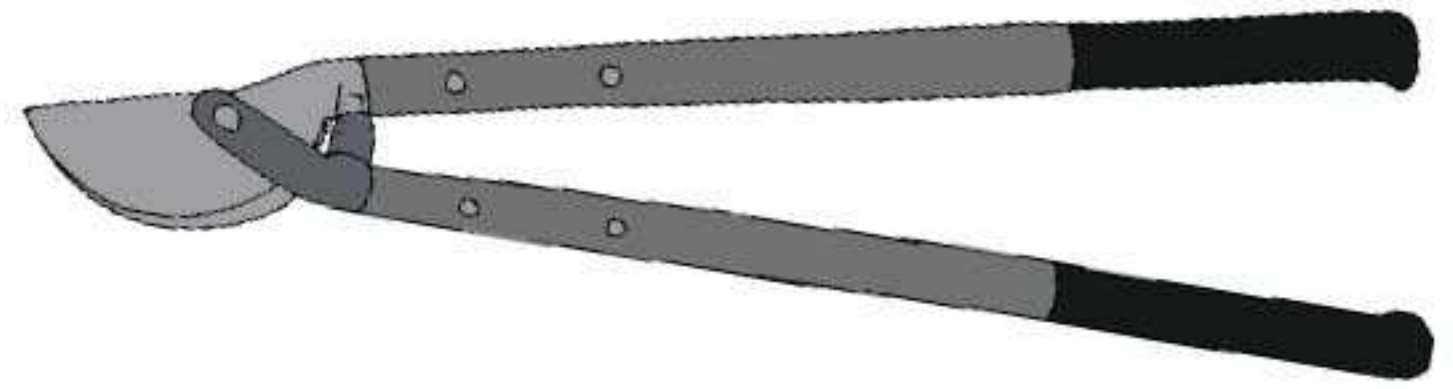


wrong-too long, stub will die back

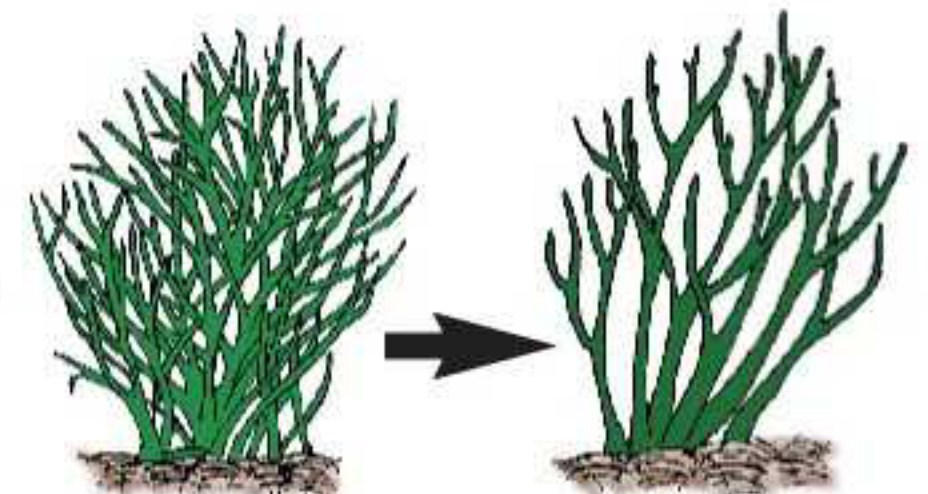
wrong-too close, bud will dry out

correct

(branches up to 1 1/2" diameter)

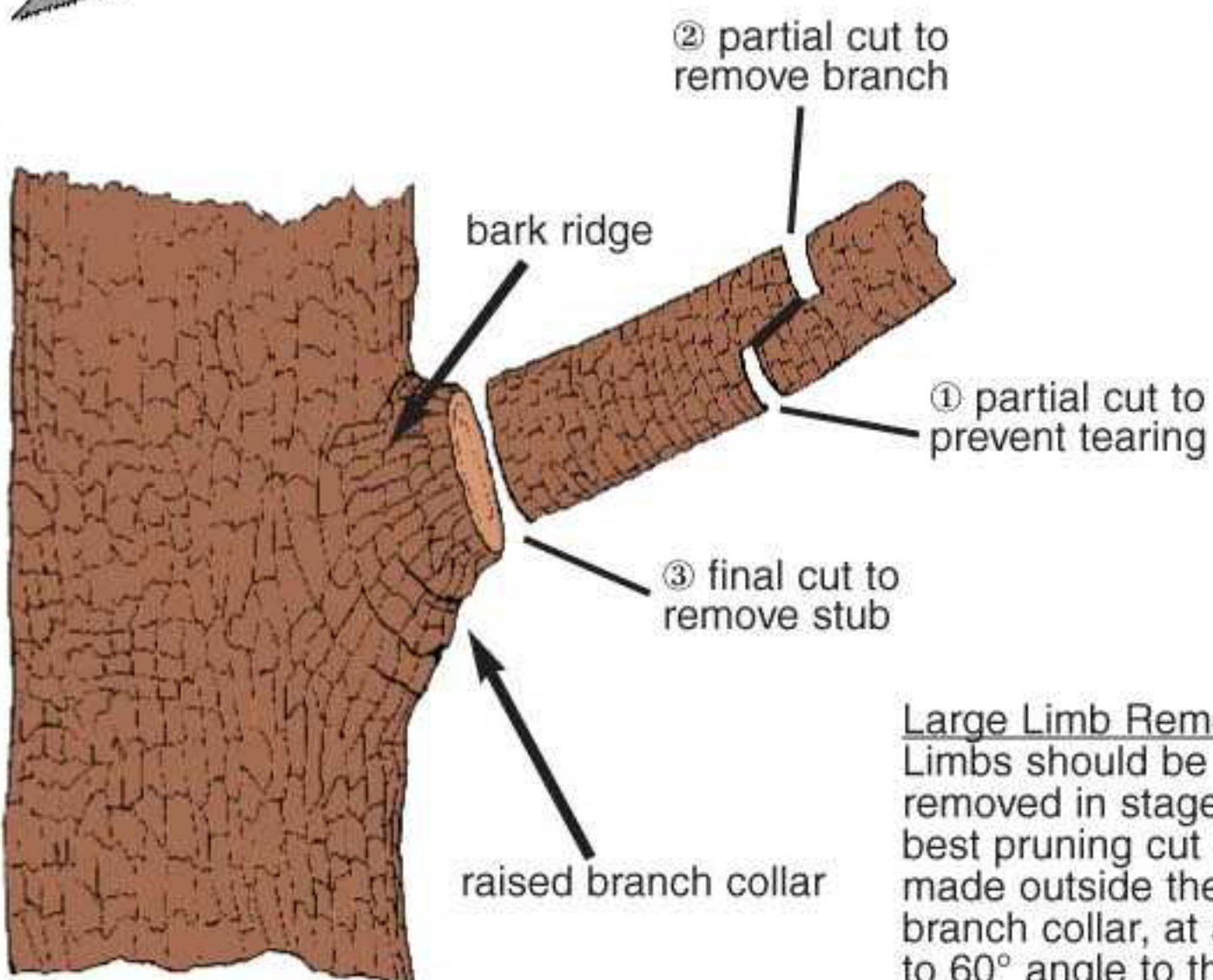
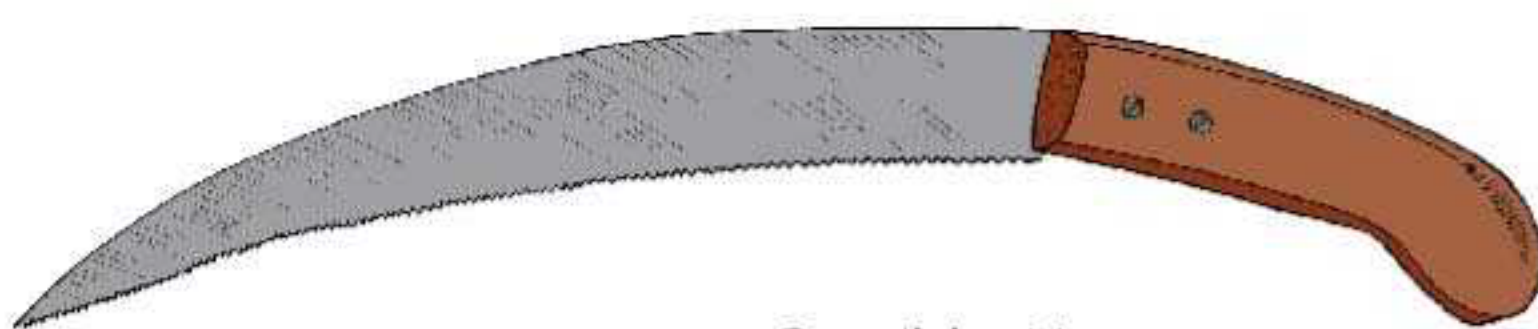


Thinning Cuts (total branch removal): Thinning removes branches at their point of origin or attachment. Used in moderation, thinning cuts reduce density without stimulating regrowth.



Pruning Saw

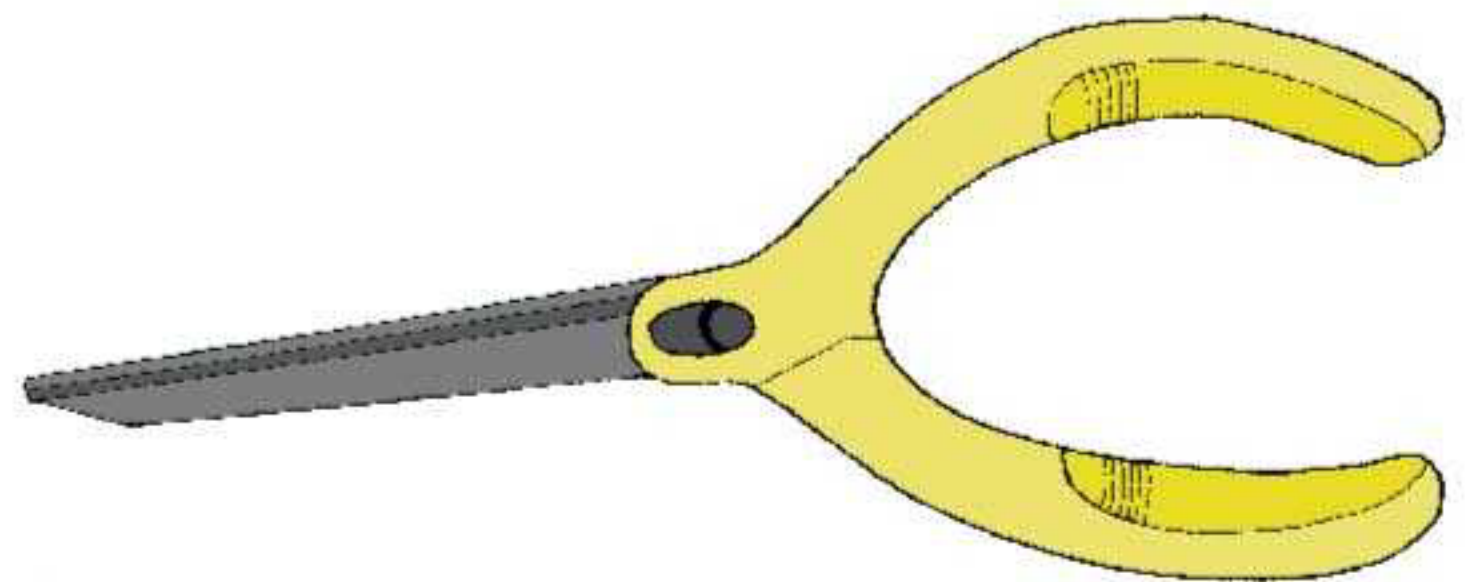
(large diameter branches)



Large Limb Removal: Limbs should be removed in stages. The best pruning cut is made outside the branch collar, at a 45° to 60° angle to the branch bark ridge.

Pruning Shears

(formal pruning)



Restrict use of shearing to hedges, formal plant shaping and plants unsuited for naturalistic pruning (individual stem/branch removal).

Be sure top of hedge is narrower than bottom to prevent shading and die-out of bottom foliage.