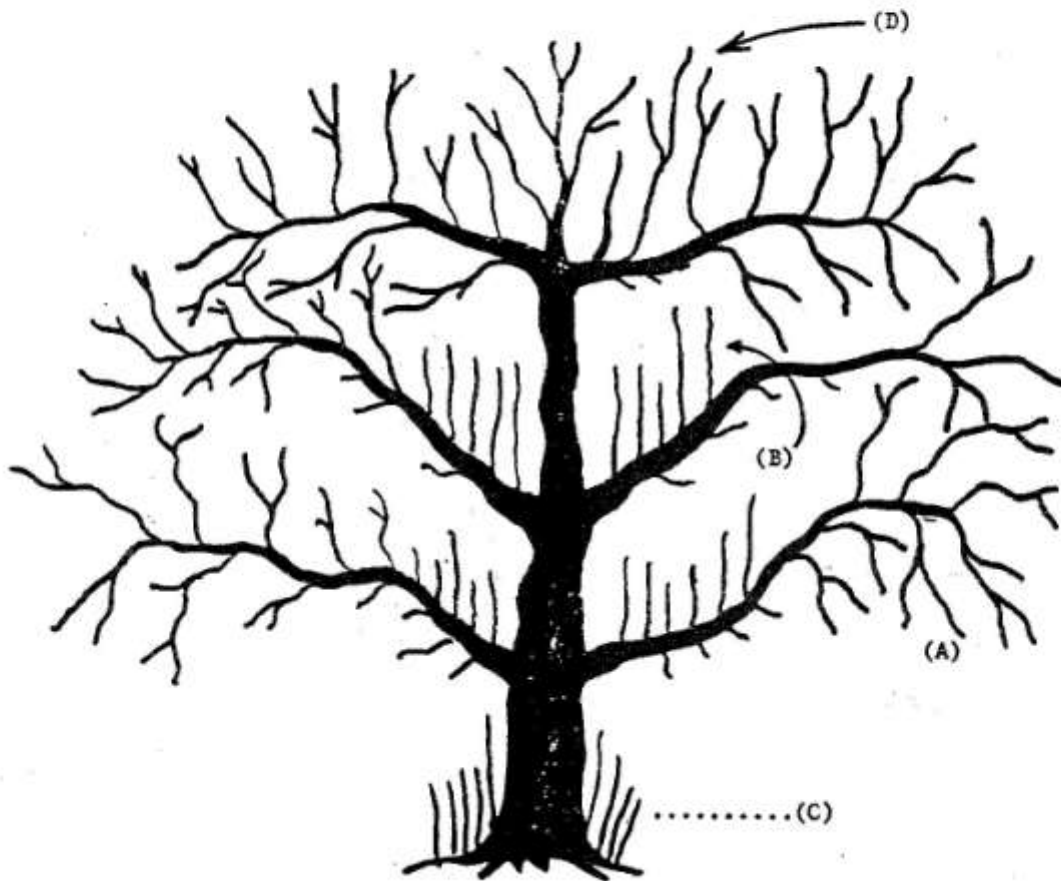


## PRUNING FRUIT TREES



1. Remove all weak branches that area shaded out (A)
2. 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?

1. 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.
10. 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

1. 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 suggestions pertain primarily to apple trees.

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