

Tree Care Workshop

Pruning for Tree Health and Well-Being



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Reasons to prune trees

- Remove dead, damaged or broken branches
- Remove rubbing, crossing, inward growing branches
- For visibility and safety
- Training young trees
- Direct future growth
- Control plant size
- Reduce canopy density



Dead branches



Sign blocked



Rubbing/crossing branches



Broken branch

Where to cut?



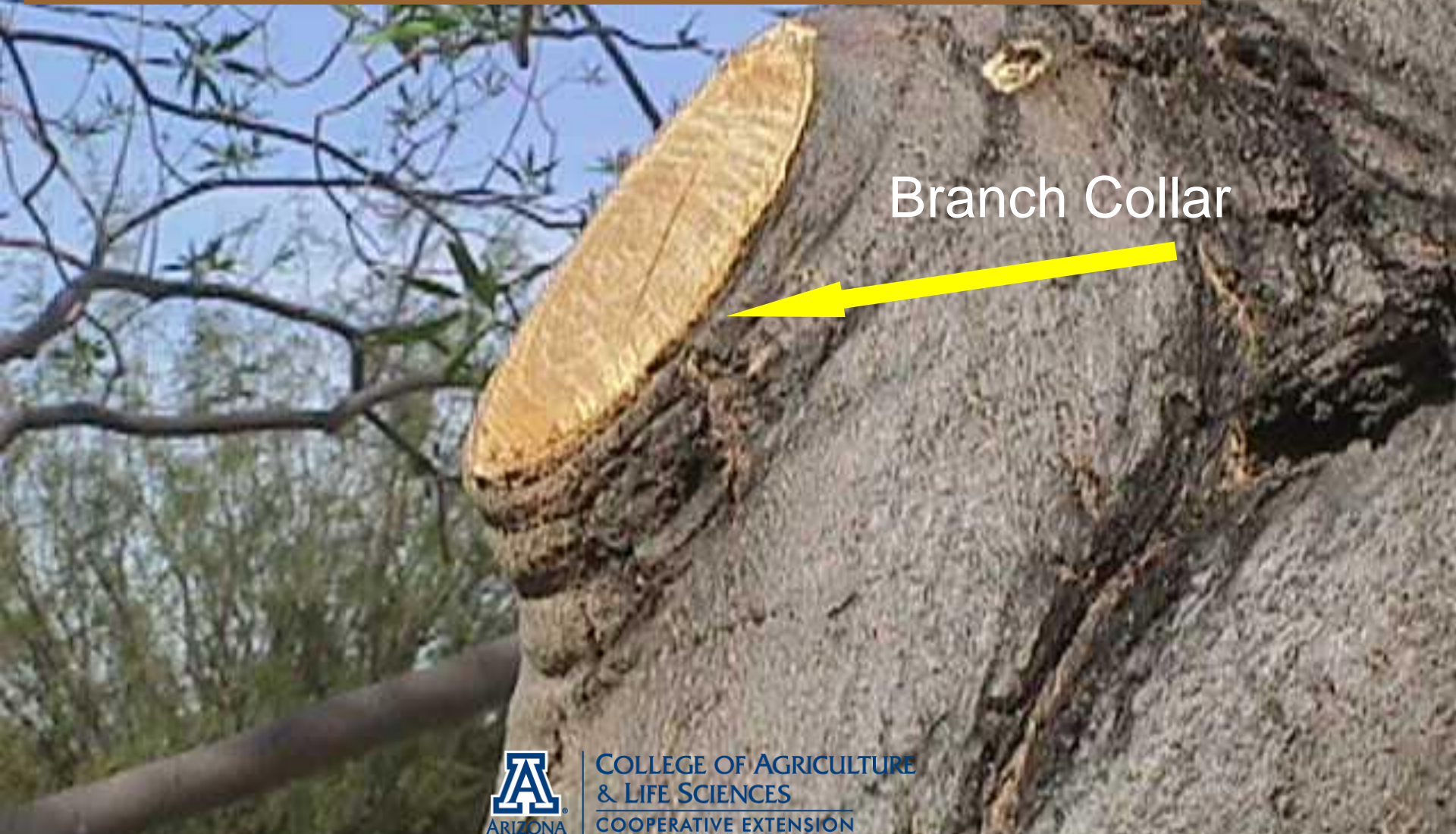
Branch Bark Ridge

Branch Collar



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
& LIFE SCIENCES
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

- ✓ Prune outside the branch collar
- ✓ Leaves branch protection zone intact in branches smaller than the trunk
- ✓ Allows the wound to heal



- ✓ **Leave the cut to heal naturally**
- ✓ **Do not apply paint to the cut surface**

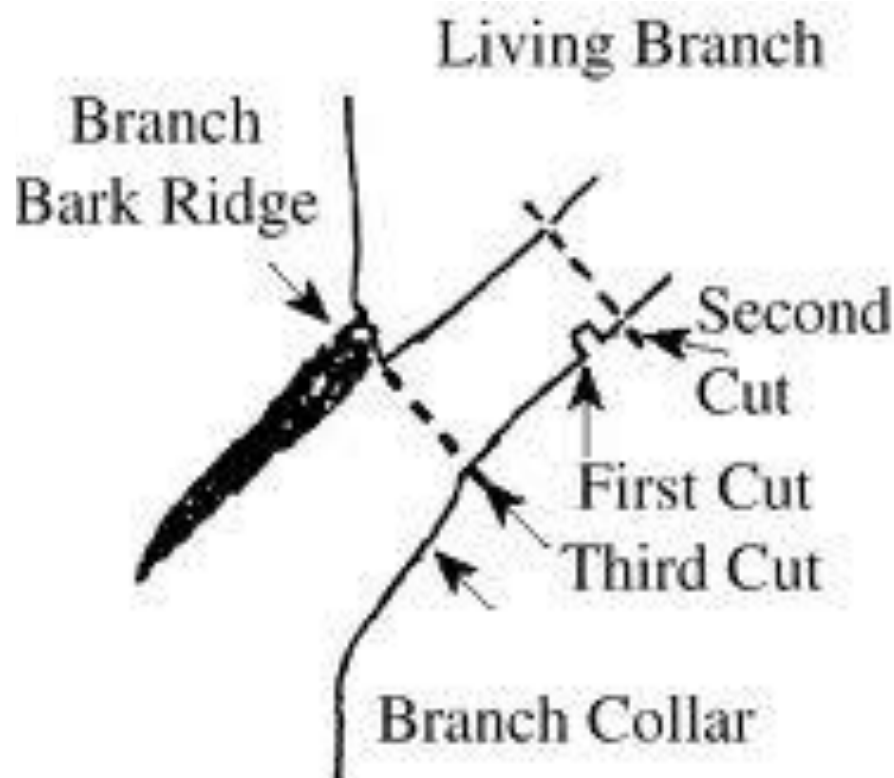


Proper pruning cuts

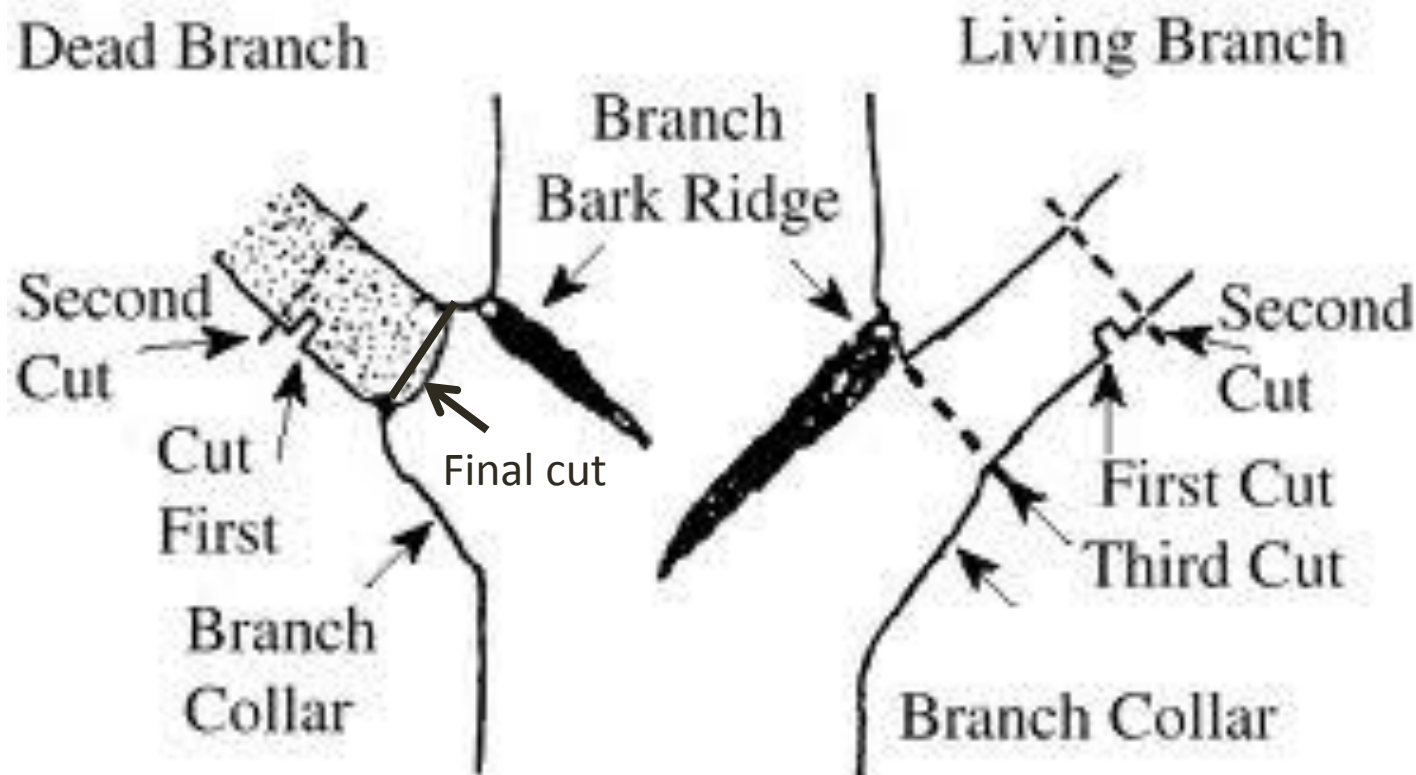
- ✓ **Cut outside the branch collar**
- ✓ **Do not leave stubs**
- ✓ **For branches larger than 1”
diameter use the 3 cut method**
- ✓ **This prevents tearing the bark**

Cutting a dead and living branch with the 3 cut method

1. Undercut - away from the trunk about one third into the bottom of the branch
2. Remove branch outside of undercut
3. Final cut outside the branch collar



Cutting a dead and living branch



When to prune?

- **Winter** - Deciduous Trees
- **Spring** - Evergreens before spring growth starts
- **Summer** Native trees
- Anytime – light pruning or when cleanup is needed

How much to cut?

- Remove no more than 25% of the foliage in one year.

Why?

Removing more canopy will prevent the tree from producing its own food through photosynthesis.

Reduction cut – controls size

- Cut branch should be no more than three times as thick as remaining branch
- Branch is cut back to lateral
- Also called drop crotch cut



Do not top trees

- Removes too much foliage
- Destroys the structure of the tree
- Does not control tree height
- New branches are weakly attached



Do not lion-tail trees

- Removes too much foliage
- Leaves unbalanced branches, sunburn prone
- Will grow many suckers



Sonorantreesvc.com



Traversotree.com



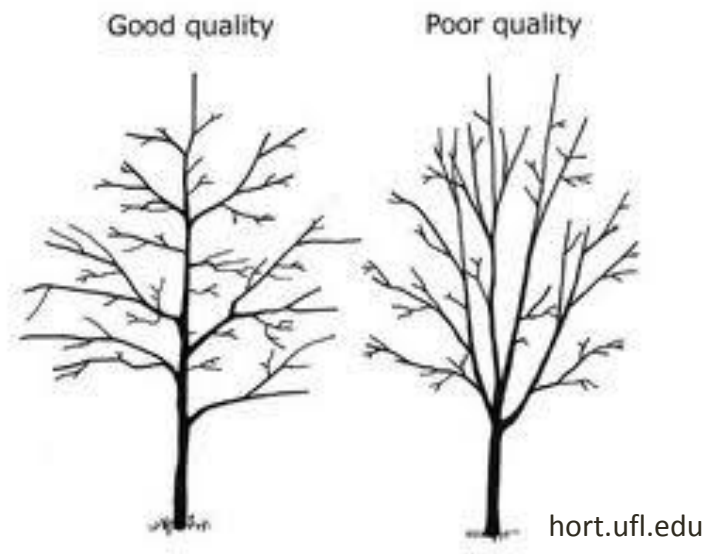
Training trees

- Develop sound canopy structure
- Single leader, well spaced branches
- Remove or shorten co-dominant stems
- Remove or shorten competing stems
- Identify lowest permanent branches, control growth of temporary branches (usually about 5 years after planting)

Training young trees



- ☐ Develop sound canopy structure
- ☐ Single leader, well spaced branches
- ☐ Remove, shorten co-dominant stems
- ☐ Remove or shorten competing stems
- ☐ Identify lowest permanent branches, control growth of temporary branches



Co-dominant stems

Pruning palms

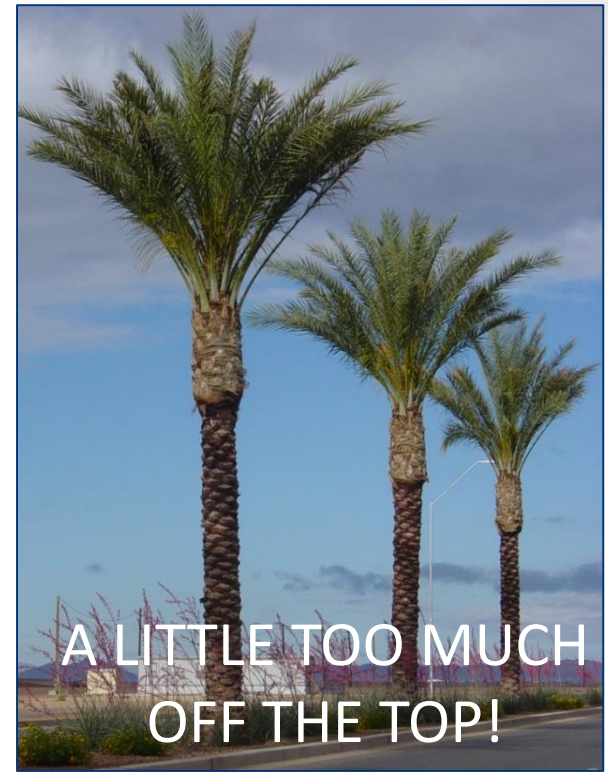
- Remove only dead or dying fronds
- Leave all horizontal and upward pointing fronds
- Removing green fronds stresses the plant



DON'T CUT
GREEN FRONDS.



A LITTLE TOO MUCH
OFF THE TOP!



PRUNE FRUITING STRUCTURES?



SLOW DEATH OR INFECTION



Pruning Summary

- Prune for a reason
- Cut outside the branch collar
- Use the 3-cut method for larger branches
- Prune at the right time
- Cut less than 25% of foliage in one year
- Train trees, direct growth



Resources

- Gilman, E.F. 2011. An Illustrated Guide to Pruning. 3rd Ed. Delmar, Albany, New York.
- Johnson, E.A. 1997. Pruning, Planting and Care. Ironwood Press, Tucson, Arizona.
- Wright, G. and J. Kelly. 2008. Pruning Citrus. University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Bulletin AZ1455
- <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/crops/az1455.pdf>