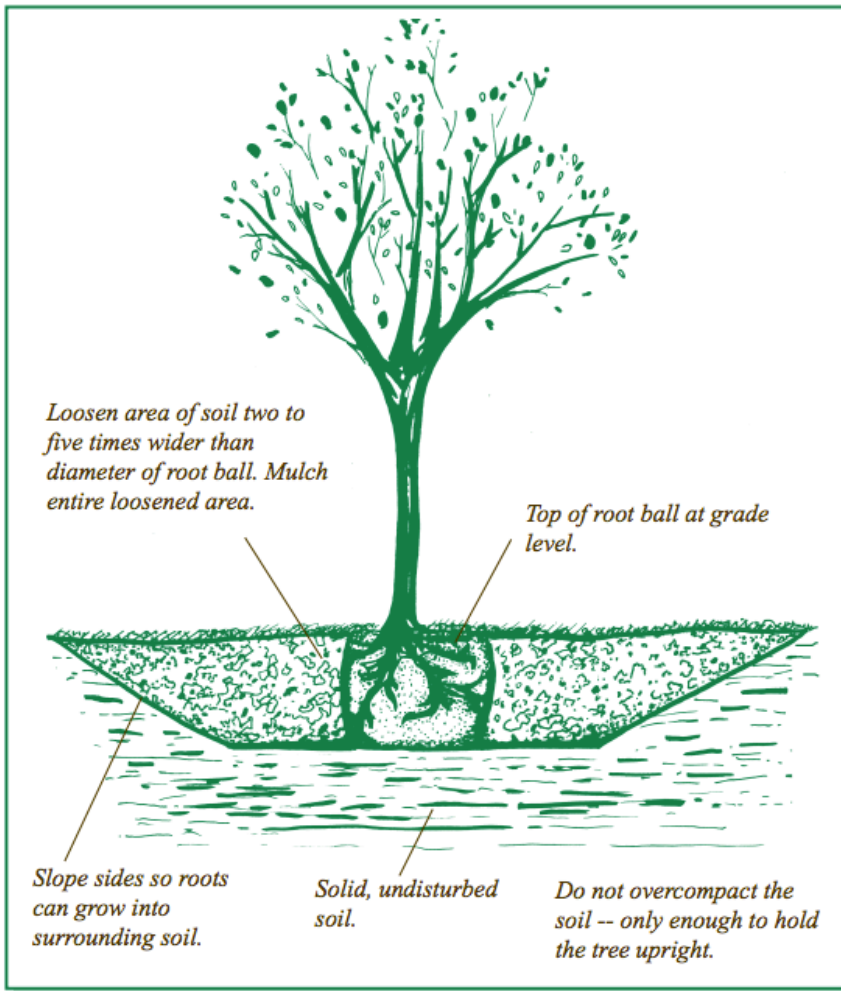


# TREE PLANTING



1. Dig hole 2x size of container and deep enough for soil in container to be level with surrounding soil.

2. Remove tree from container and loosen roots.

3. Place tree in center of hole and level trunk so it is straight.

4. Backfill hole halfway with soil. Gently tamp soil with foot to remove air pockets.

5. Fill hole to level of surrounding soil.

6. Water tree.

7. Remove all plastic bands, tags, small stakes.

8. Cover loosened soil with 3-4" of mulch. Pull mulch back slightly from trunk.

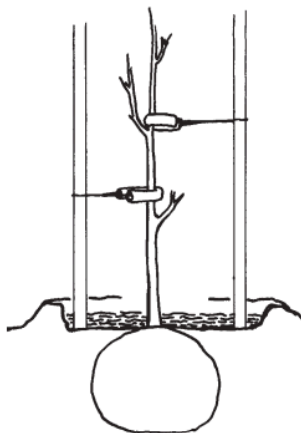
9. Add tree trunk protector to guard against string trimmer damage.

# TREE STAKING

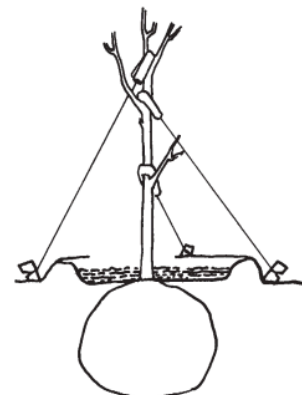
Avoid staking trees if possible!

Stake a tree only if it cannot support itself.

Remove stakes within 6 months to a year.



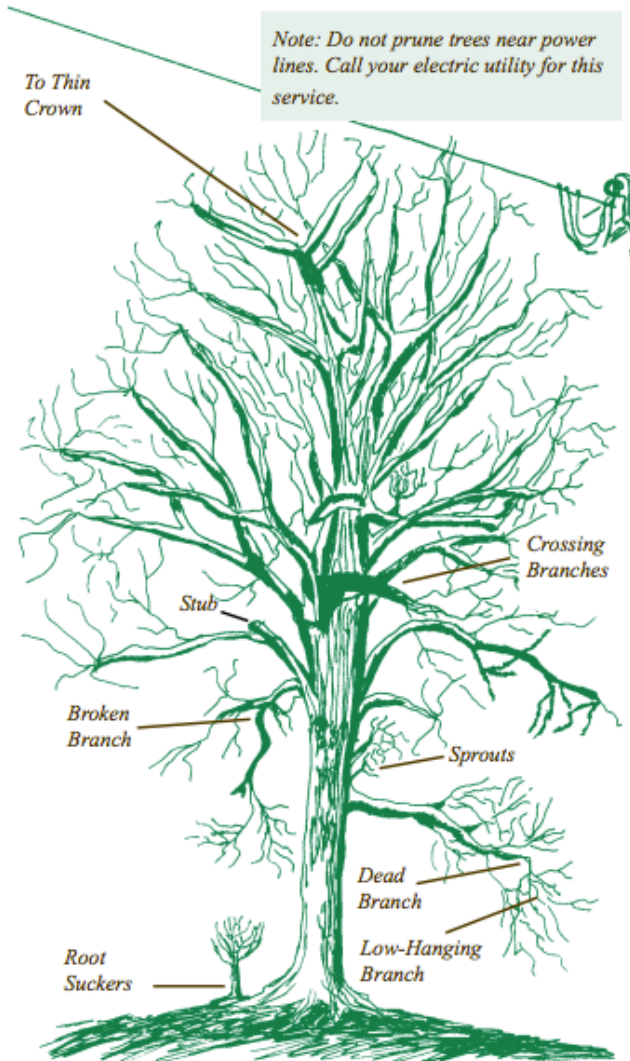
**A. Two vertical stakes near tree with attached wires**



**B. Three short stakes and attached wires**

# TREE PRUNING

## REASONS TO PRUNE

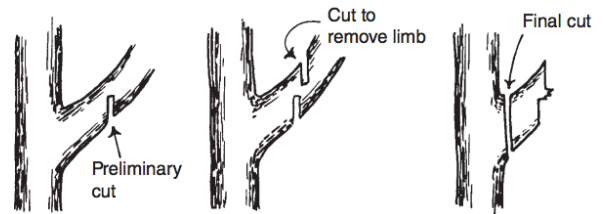


Thinning: removes a branch at its point of attachment

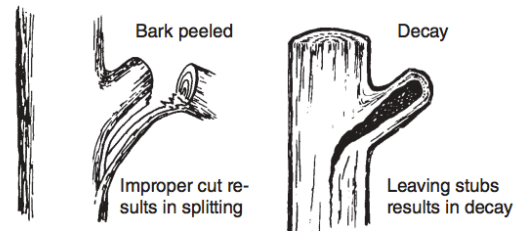
- opens up tree
- reduces weight on heavy limbs
- can reduce height
- distributes growth
- helps retain natural shape

Heading: reduces a branch into a stub

- alters natural tree form
- sprouts that grow beneath cut are attached weakly
- avoid if possible



A. Steps for removing a large tree limb



B. Results of storm damage or improper cut which is not given special attention

- Best time for pruning is Dec.-Feb. when trees are not actively growing and cool weather discourages pests and disease from infecting cuts.
- Small amounts can be pruned from evergreen trees throughout the year.
- When doing drastic pruning, remove no more than 1/3 of a tree's leaves.
- Be a good neighbor. Sidewalk and pathway clearance for ADA (American Disabilities Act) compliance: 80" clear height, 36" clear width

Illustrations from *Native Tree Growing Guide for Louisiana* and *Trees for Louisiana Landscapes* published by LSU AgCenter