

Pruning Procedures



Rainbow's Arborists are trained to remove limbs on trees with the least impact to tree health. We have based much of our pruning practices on the pruning research from Dr. Alex Shigo from the U.S. Forest Service, whose studies of tree decay led to great improvements in the tree care practices.

Proper Pruning: Natural Target Pruning (NTP)

Researchers all agree that the "branch collar" of the limb to be pruned should not be touched. The branch collar is the region of the branch where the trunk wood and the wood from the branch intersect and join. This area of tissue connection is designed to prevent infections from coming through the branch and infecting the main trunk of the tree. If the branch collar is eliminated when pruning, the trees' natural barrier to infection and decay is effectively removed. Pruning which keeps the branch collar intact is called "Natural Target Pruning (NTP)".

Professional Expertise

It is always best to have professionals prune your trees that have the knowledge and expertise to reduce wound risk and promote overall tree health*. At times there may be situations where no branch collar exists. This is a common occurrence on linden and maple trees that exhibit co-dominance. Co-dominance is where two limbs are competing with each other for dominance and are not creating good structure. In these situations our arborists will remove up to 1/3 of one of the co-dominant limbs, back to a secondary limb. This reduction will allow the nonpruned limb to become dominate and the pruned limb to become less important or subordinate. Over a period of three years, the subordinate limb will create a branch collar to the dominant limb at which time it can be removed without removing or bypassing the protection zone of the tree. This form of pruning has been thoroughly research by Dr. Ed Gilman from the University of Florida and is referred to as "Subordination Pruning".

- Cut # 1 prevents bark and tissue tearing
- Cut # 2 removes the weight of the branch
- Cut # 3 is along the edge of the branch collar, preserving the protection zone of the tree.

An Integrated Approach

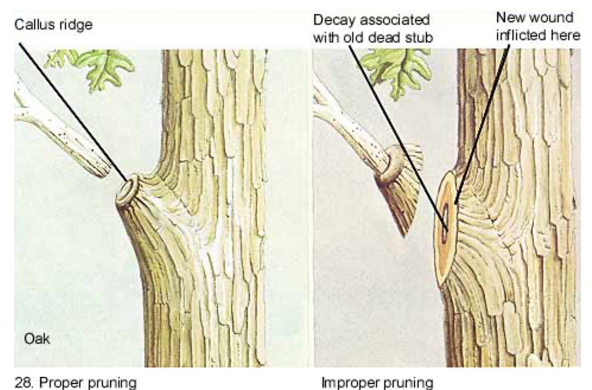
When caring for urban trees it is important to make a complete evaluation of all environmental conditions to accurately diagnose all stress factors and prescribe care based on specific circumstances. This prescriptive care will help your tree meet its full potential.



Rainbow Treecare practices NTP for optimal tree health.



Decay is introduced and spreads into the main body of a tree when the branch collar is removed.



Proper cuts to reduce the potential for infection of primary wood tissue.

* Tree pruning is dangerous work. Always call a professional arborist when cutting a large limb or if the branch to be pruned necessitates the use of a ladder .