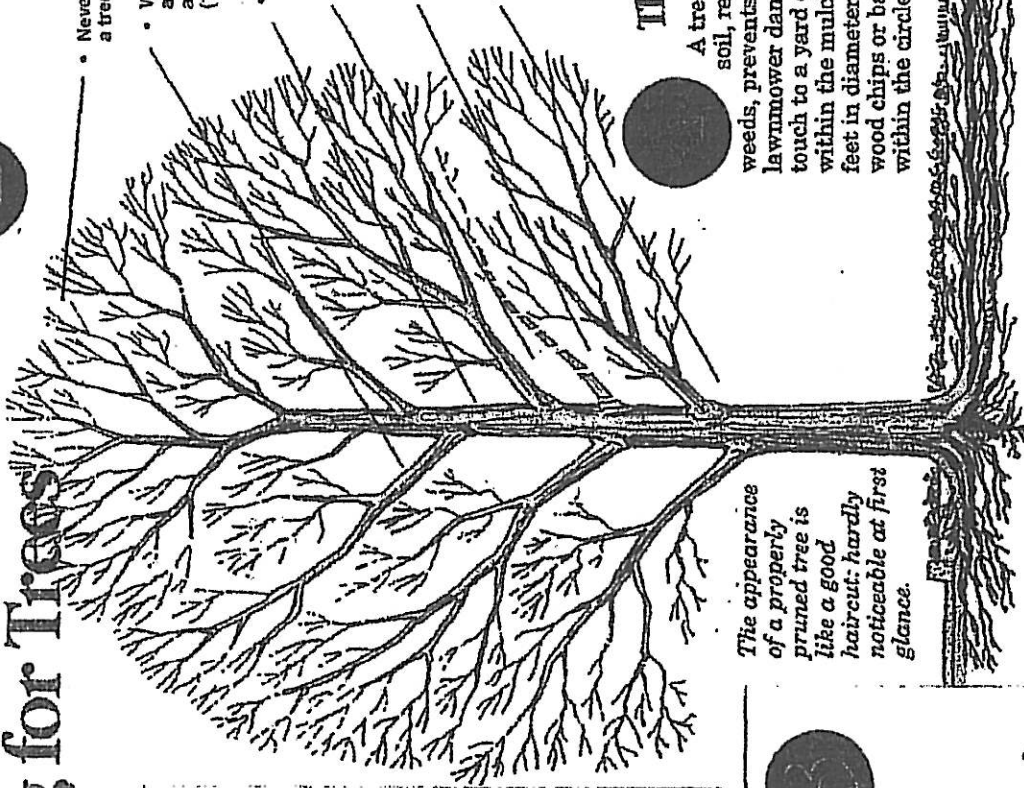


Things You Should Know About Caring for Trees

Use the 1/3 Rules for Pruning

- Never remove more than 1/3 of a tree's crown.
- Where possible, try to encourage side branches that form angles that are 1/3 off vertical (10:00 or 2:00 positions).
- For most species, the tree should have a single trunk.
- Ideally, main side branches should be at least 1/3 smaller than the diameter of the trunk.
- If removal of main branches is necessary, cut them back to the trunk to avoid leaving stubs.
- For most deciduous (broadleaf) trees, don't prune up from the bottom any more than 1/3 of the tree's total height.



The appearance of a properly pruned tree is like a good haircut: hardly noticeable at first glance.

The Value of Mulch

A tree's best friend, mulch insulates soil, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents soil compaction, reduces lawn mower damage, and adds an aesthetic touch to a yard or street. Remove any grass within the mulch area, an area from 3 to 10 feet in diameter, depending on tree size. Pour wood chips or bark pieces 2 to 4 inches deep within the circle, but not touching the trunk.

- The framework of major roots usually lies less than 8 to 12 inches below the surface.
- Roots often grow outward to a diameter one to two times the height of the tree.

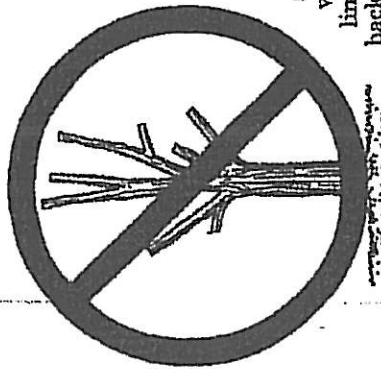
We don't always appreciate how far roots can extend. Understanding how and where roots grow will help you avoid damage from trenching and construction.

Where Roots Really Grow

- Because roots need oxygen, they don't normally grow in the compacted oxygen-poor soil under paved streets.

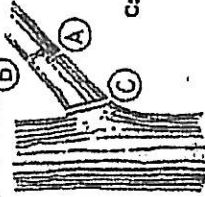
Don't Top Trees!

Never cut main branches back to stubs. Ugly, weakly attached limbs often grow back higher than the original branches. Many arborists say that topping is the worst thing you can do for the health of a tree.



How to Make a Pruning Cut

- Large Limbs:
- A: Make a partial cut from beneath.
 - B: Make a second cut from above several inches out and allow the limb to fall.
 - C: Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar.



Small Branches:

Make a sharp, clean cut, just beyond a lateral bud or other branch.

