Pruning Do’s

Remove live branches from hardwood trees during late winter or early spring, when the tree is dormant.

Conifer trees may be limbed any time, except during early summer.

When deciding which live branches to remove, first choose those with poor health or little green foliage.

Next, choose branches that are damaged, diseased, or interfering with other branches.

Remove dead branches any time of the year.

Use sharp tools and make clean cuts.

Pruning Don’ts

Painting wound dressing on pruning cuts is unnecessary and can actually hurt the tree by causing the pruning cut to seal slower.

Cutting branches flush with the trunk will rob the tree of natural chemicals used to close the wound. This will lead to decay in the tree.

Never remove more than one-third of a tree’s live crown.