

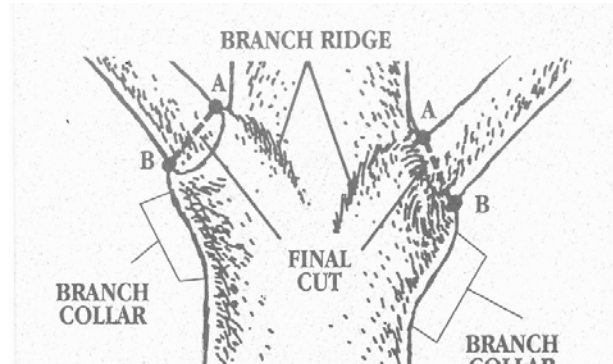
Tree Care Tips

The benefits of trees in the landscape are many. The following tips will help assure the survival of newly planted and established trees.

➤ **Prune.**

Cut off dead branches, branches that cross or rub together, and suckers growing from the bottom and sides of the main trunk. (Oak trees should be pruned before April 1 or after Nov. 1 to avoid oak wilt.)

- Pruning cuts should be made close to the base of a branch (about ¼" away), do not leave a stub.
- Make cuts outside the branch ridge and collar; do not cut into the trunk of the tree.



➤ **Place mulch 3-4 inches deep around the base of trees.**

This will retain moisture and prevent weeds and grass from growing around the base of the tree.

(Please see back side of this page for more information on mulching.)

➤ **Do not build a cone of mulch around the trunk base of trees.**

This practice encourages insects and disease to attack the tree. It also causes root growth within the mulch resulting in poor tree stability. Mulch should be raked into a flattened doughnut shape.

(Please see back side of this page for more information on mulching.)

➤ **Avoid nicking the bark on trees with lawnmowers and weed whips.**

Diseases enter through wounds on trunks and branches and may inhibit water uptake.

➤ **Water newly planted trees.**

Regularly water new trees during dry periods for the first two to three years of life. Soak the ground thoroughly with a slow dripping hose. Established trees benefit from this practice also.

➤ **Do not over-water new trees planted in heavy clay soils.**

Trees can wilt and die if roots are sitting in water.