

Pruning Ornamental Trees

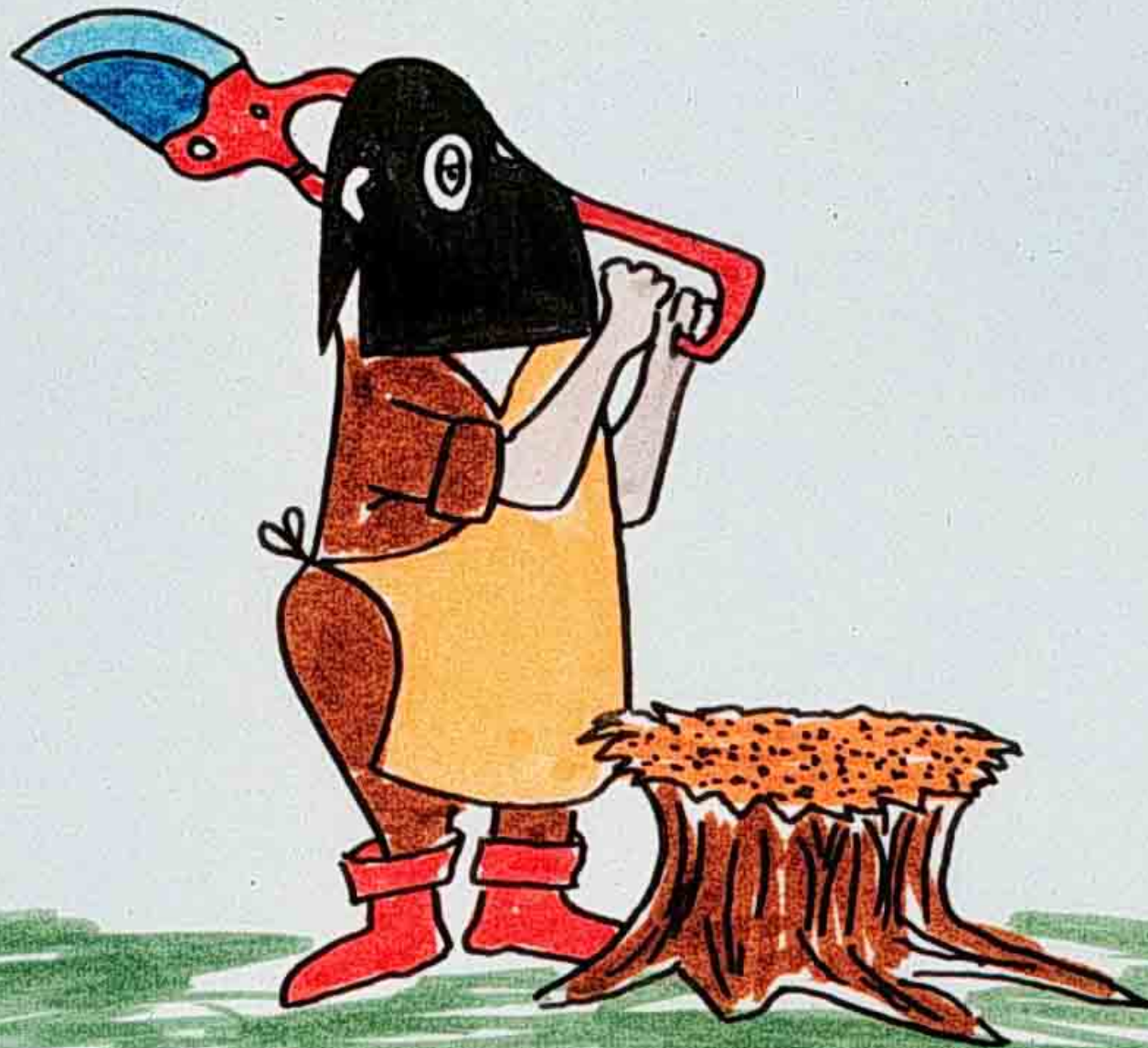


J.Robbins 2002

Reasons for Pruning

Reasons for Pruning

Have one!



Is this how you want to be known in the neighborhood?

Reasons for Pruning:

- 1. Remove dead wood**
- 2. Remove diseased wood**
- 3. Eliminate structural problems** (e.g. crossing branches, tight crotches in trees)
- 4. Eliminate hazards** (e.g. pedestrian conflicts)
- 5. Increase light levels in interior**
- 6. Reduce plant size**
- 7. Aesthetics**



Reasons for Pruning:

Tight 'V' crotches in trees



Reasons for Pruning:

Backcrossing limb

A photograph of a tree trunk and several branches, with a green text box overlaid on the upper part of the image. The tree trunk is on the right, and several branches extend from it. The background is a blurred, reddish-brown landscape. The text "Reasons for Pruning:" is written in yellow on a green background.

Reasons for Pruning:


Rubbing branches

Reasons for Pruning:



Co-dominant leader

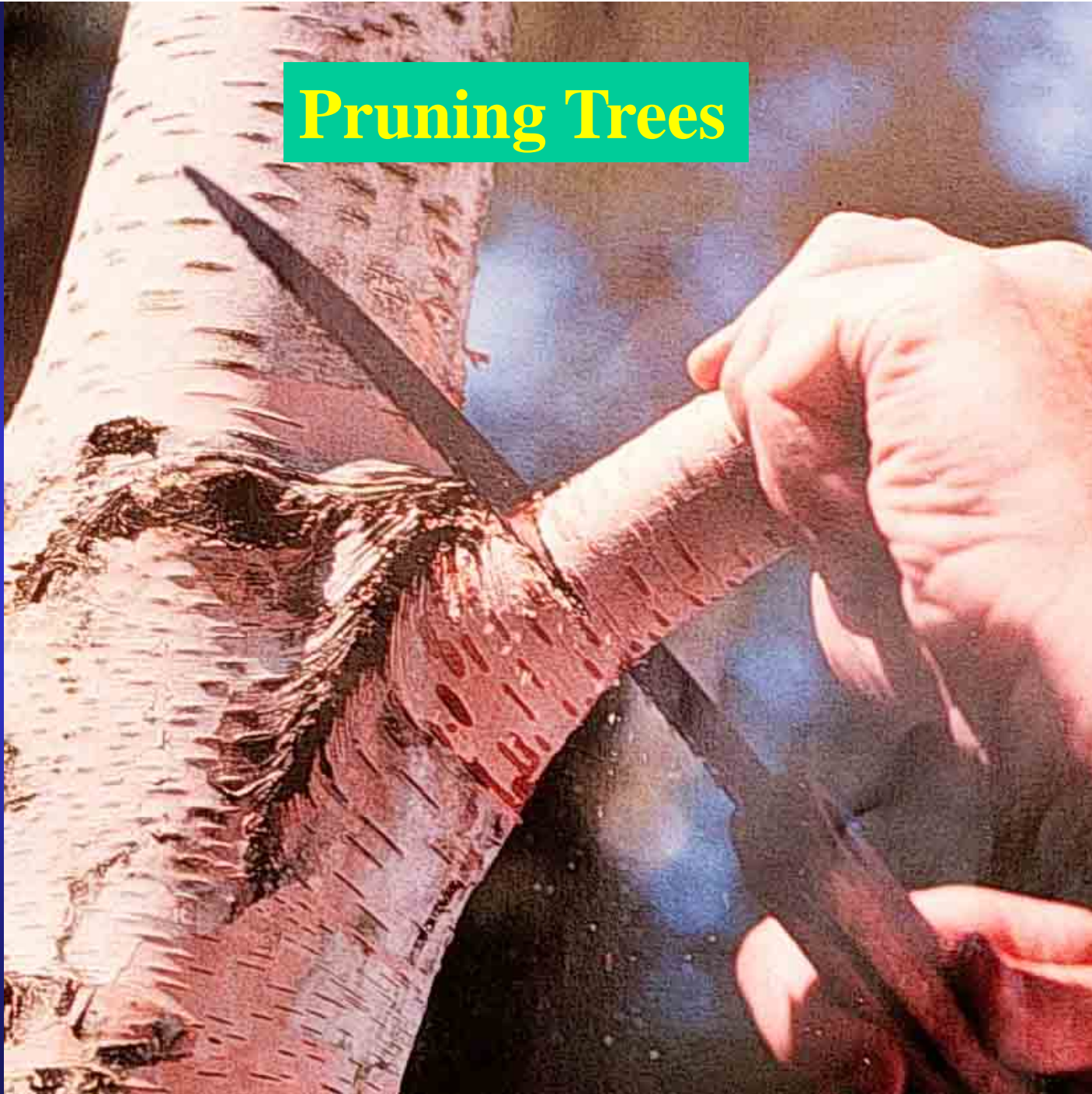
Common in opposite leaved trees like maple & ash

A close-up photograph of a tree trunk showing a tight 'V' crotch. The wood is light brown and shows signs of decay and structural damage. A significant buildup of non-structural bark is visible between the two main branches, which is highlighted by a green text box at the bottom. The background is a textured, light blue surface.

Problem with co-dominant leader

Buildup of non-structural bark between tight 'V' crotch

Pruning Trees



Time of year to prune trees

- 1. In general, just before rapid growth in early spring (tree dormant). Easy to see structure, less weight w/out leaves, and past season with ice/snow damage.**
- 2. ANYTIME for diseased/dead wood**

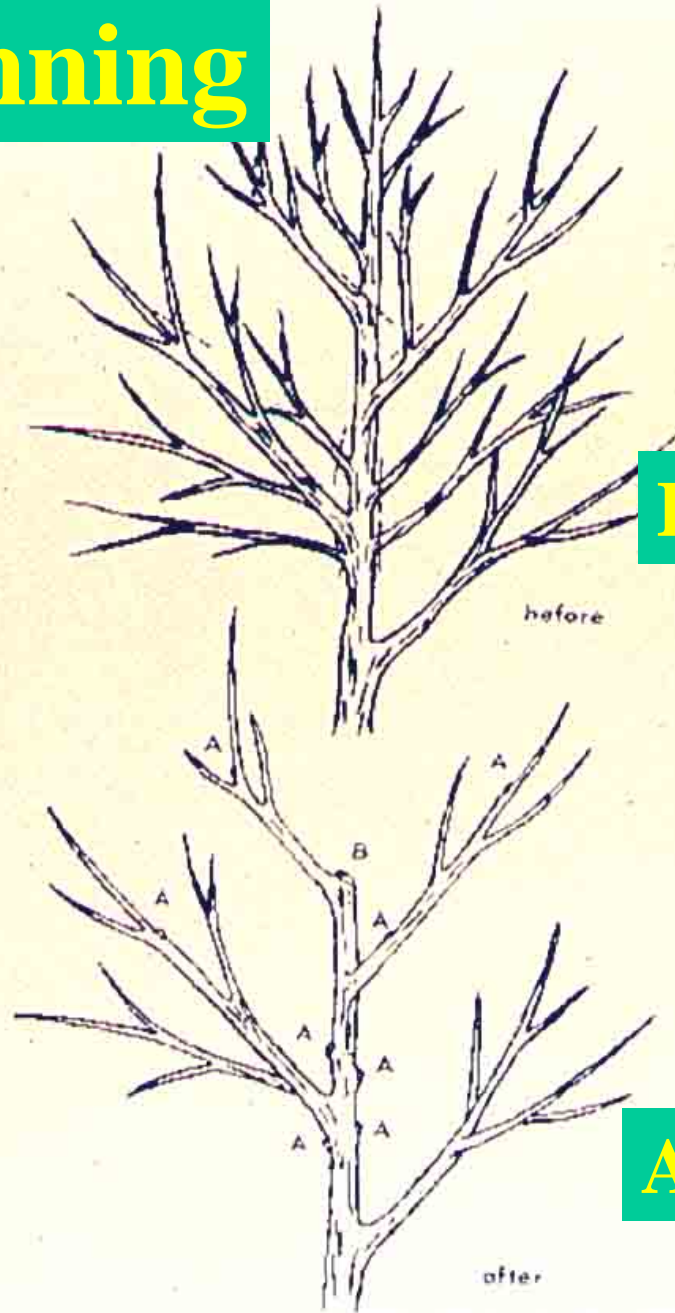
Pruning Techniques

1. Crown thinning

2. Pollarding

3. Topping or heading
back

Crown thinning



Before

After

Crown thinning can be used to reduce the overall size of a tree and yet maintain the overall natural shape of the tree.

Crown thinning involves selectively removing the entire branch back to the point of attachment. (This may be back to a lateral branch or to the main trunk.)

Crown thinning



**Topping, in contrast to thinning, is an arbitrary cutting back of tree limbs with no regard for position relative to the branch origin.
(basically a hair-cut)**

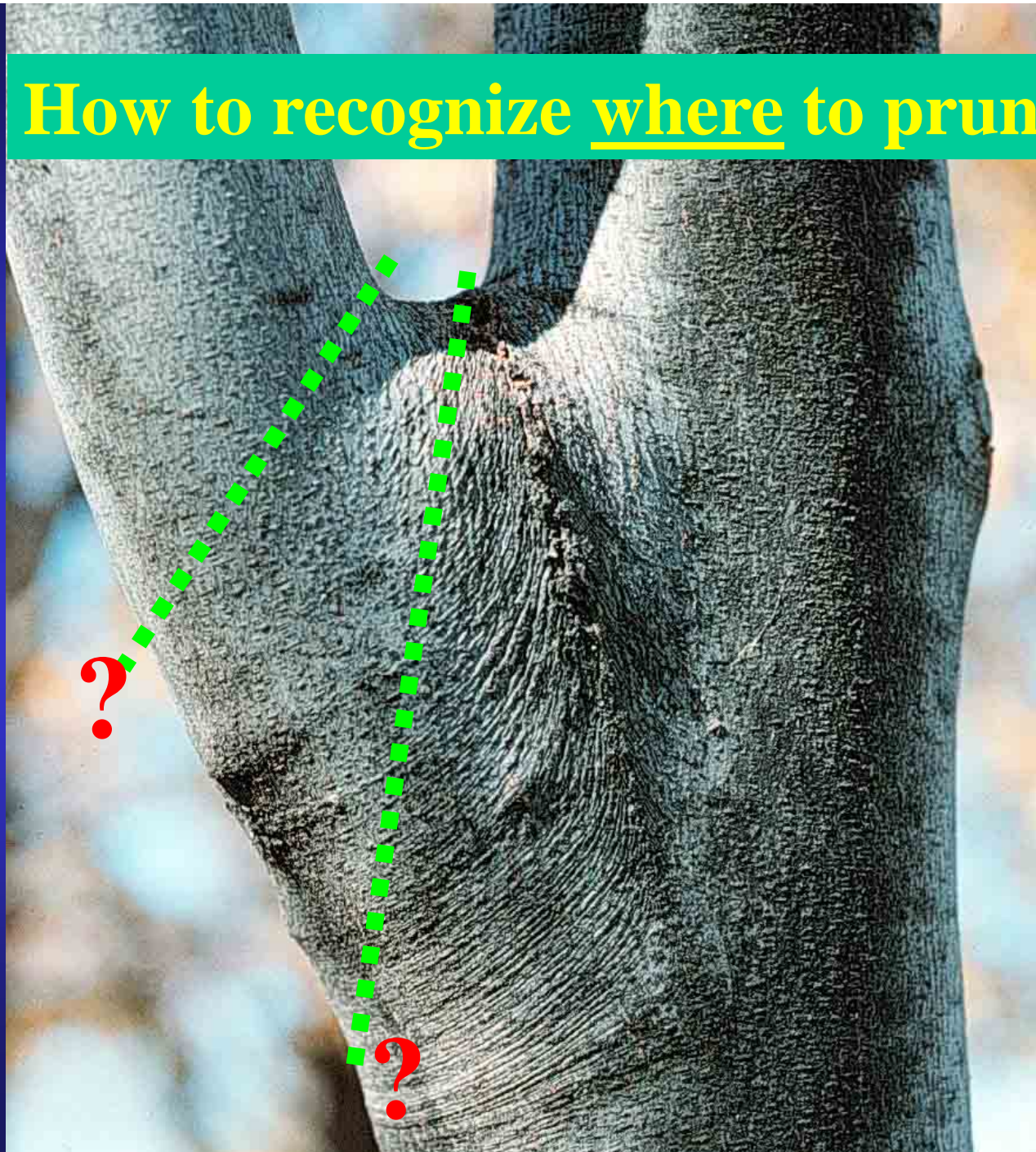


Topping



Pollarding

How to recognize where to prune?



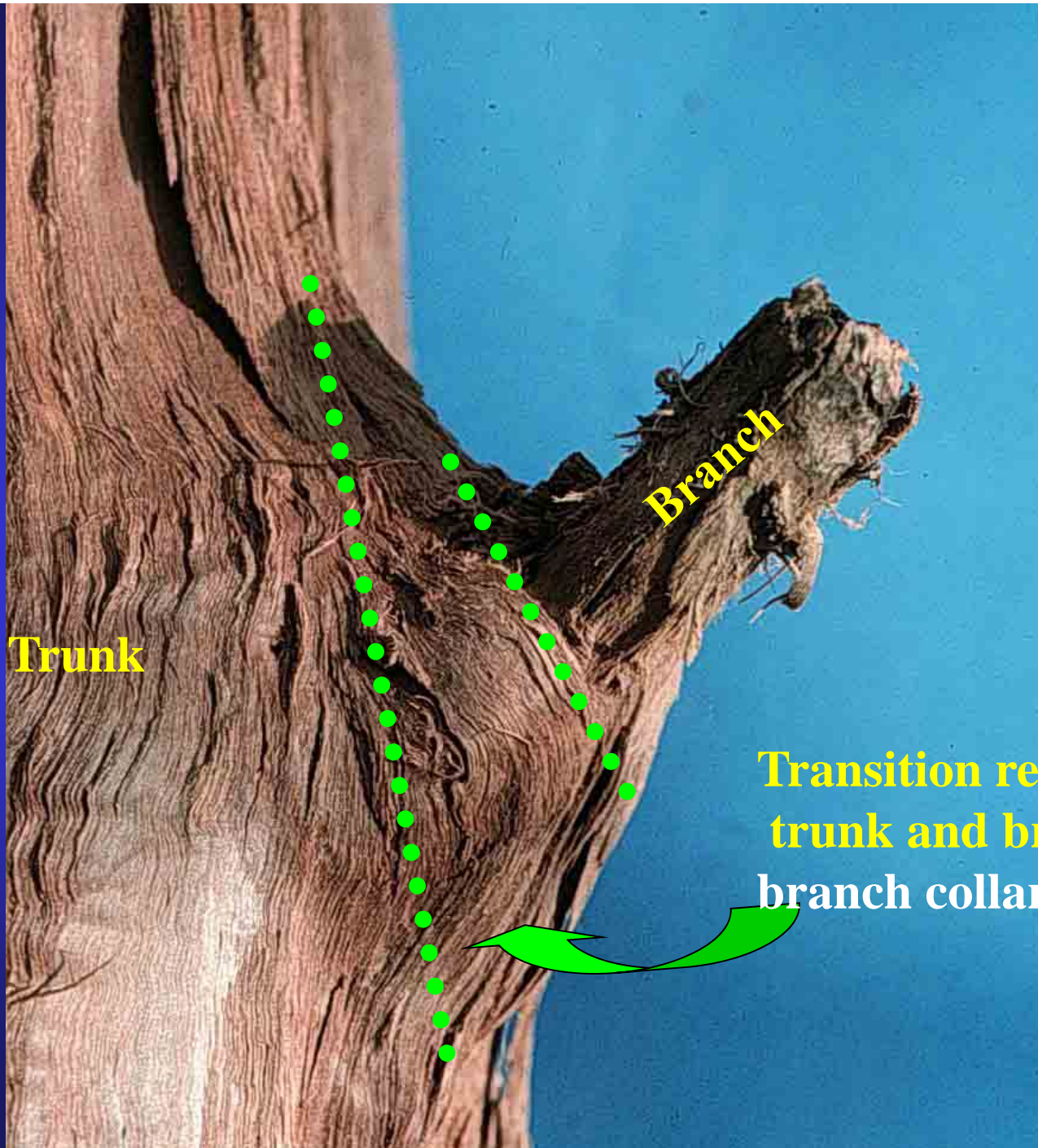
Appreciate that the connection between a branch and the main trunk/branch is rather complex and that our goal is to remove the branch with minimal impact on the main trunk/branch.

Trunk/branch with bark removed.

Trunk

Branch



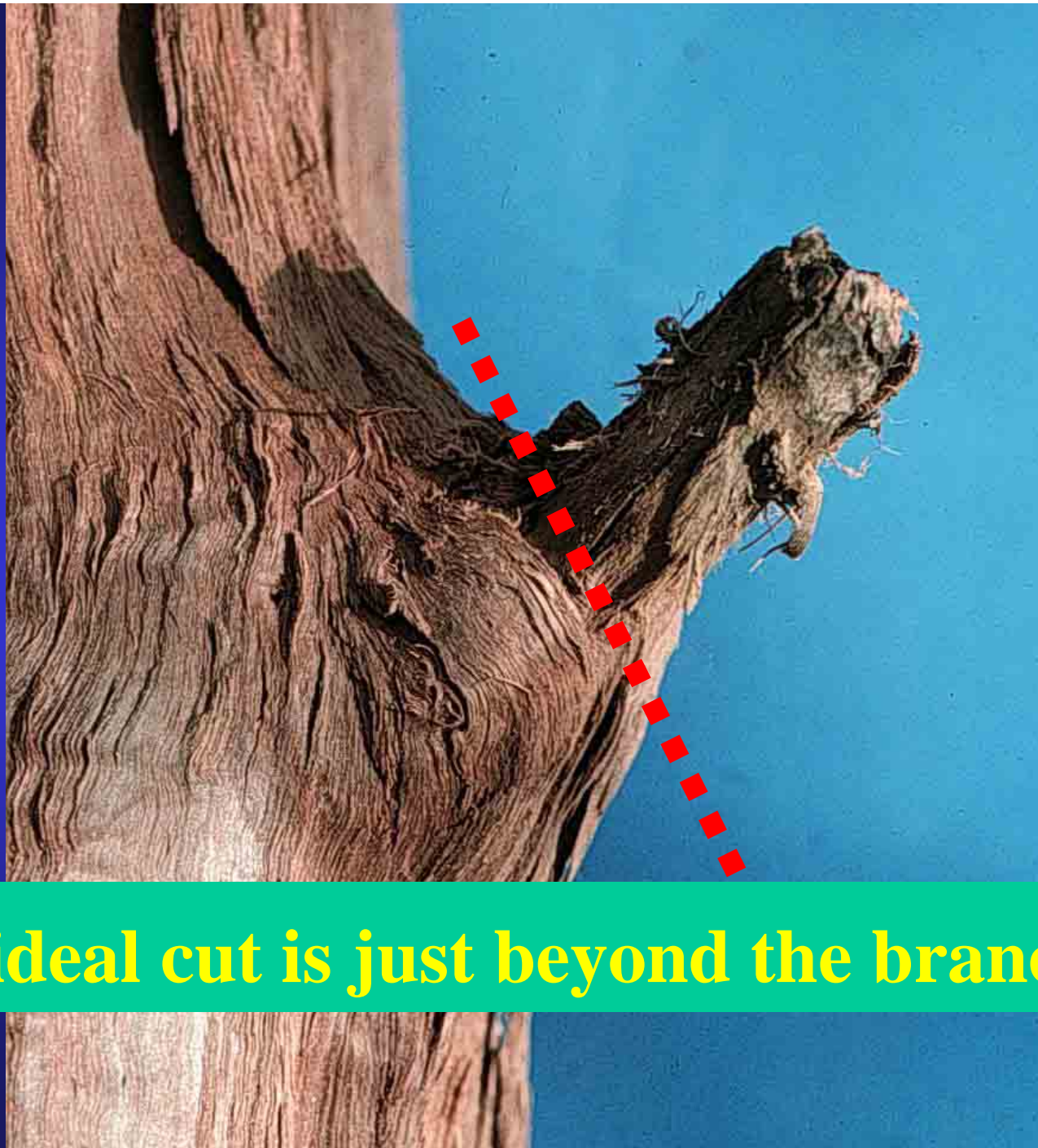


Trunk

Branch

Transition region between trunk and branch called the branch collar





The ideal cut is just beyond the branch collar

In a few cases the tree actually tells us where to make the correct pruning cut (as though it came with its own dotted cutting line), however, in the majority of cases we make an educated guess where the proper pruning cut should be made.



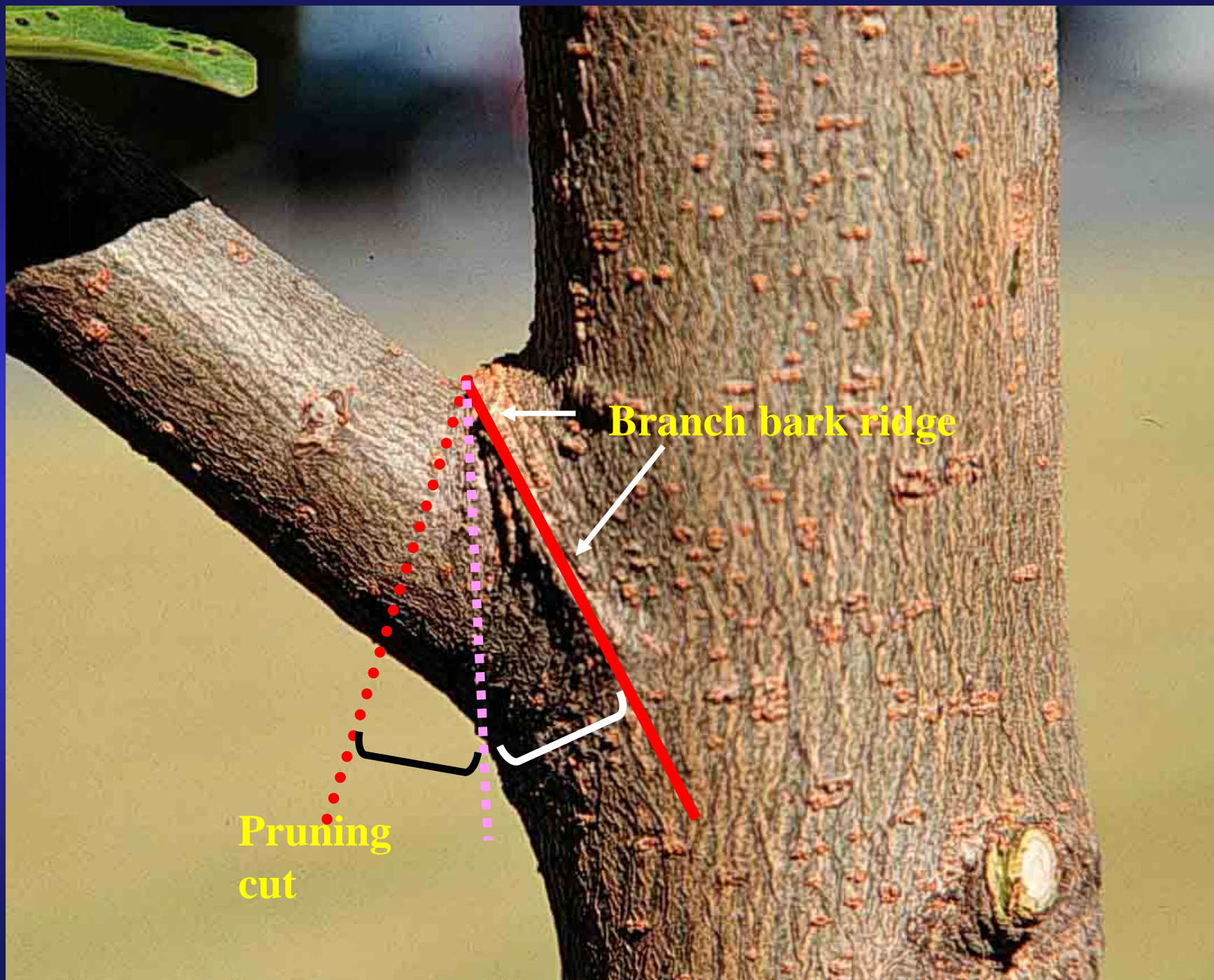
Branch collar



Pruning cut

Oops, where is the collar?





Branch bark ridge

**Pruning
cut**





Probably cut too close on the bottom



watersprouts

Avoid leaving stubs



A stub is essentially a foreign object that the trunk needs to deal with.



Proper pruning cuts can be identified later by uniform, healthy wound closure.

**The process of
successfully removing
a large branch from a
tree involves 3 pruning
cuts.**

Cut #1:



8-12'' from the main trunk and starting from the bottom, cutting upwards

A close-up photograph of a hand saw cutting through a tree limb. The saw is positioned horizontally, with the blade on the right side of the frame. The hand holding the handle is on the left. The tree trunk is on the left, and the limb being cut is on the right. The background is a blurred green, suggesting foliage. A grey box with red text is overlaid on the top left of the image. A green box with yellow text is overlaid on the bottom of the image.

Cut #2:

**1' further out on the limb and starting from the top,
cutting down**



After first 2 cuts, left with a short piece that is easier to handle.



Cut #3:

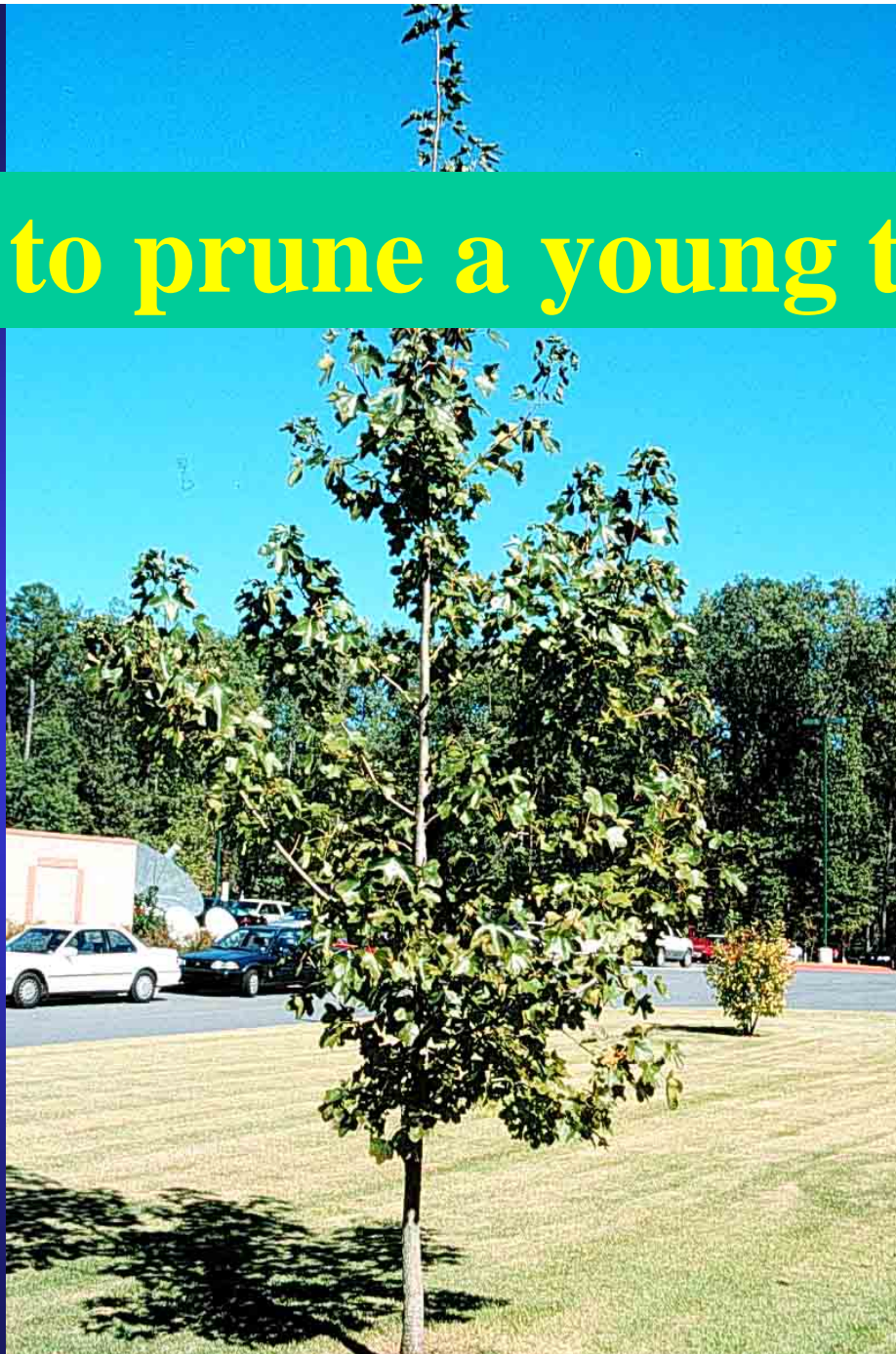


Professional pruner



Better luck with your day job !

How to prune a young tree?





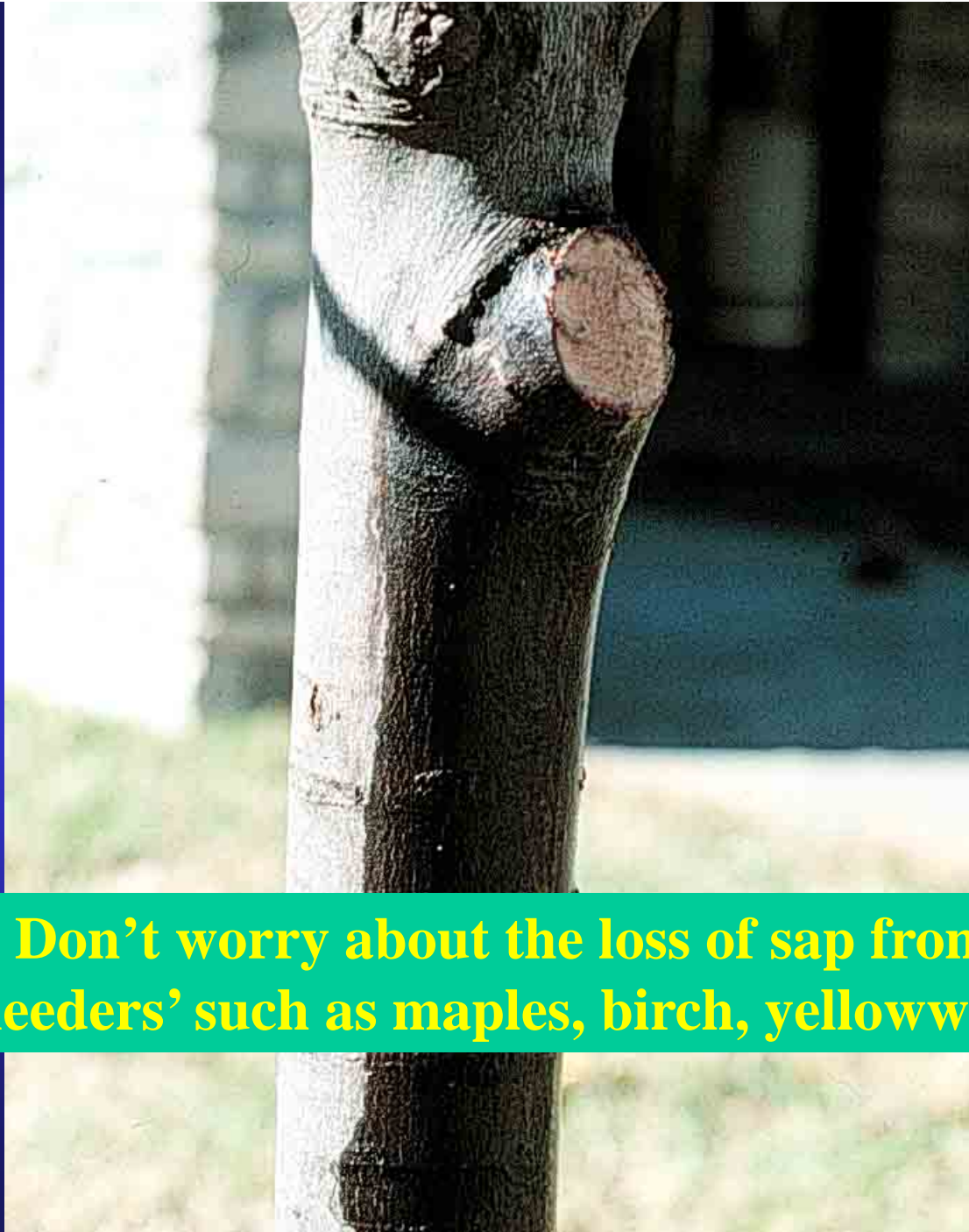
General rule of thumb: don't remove more than 1/3 of the lower branches

Treating pruning cuts

(except for roses, do not use
any pruning paints or sealers)







Don't worry about the loss of sap from 'bleeders' such as maples, birch, yellowwood.

Pruning Tools



Lopper

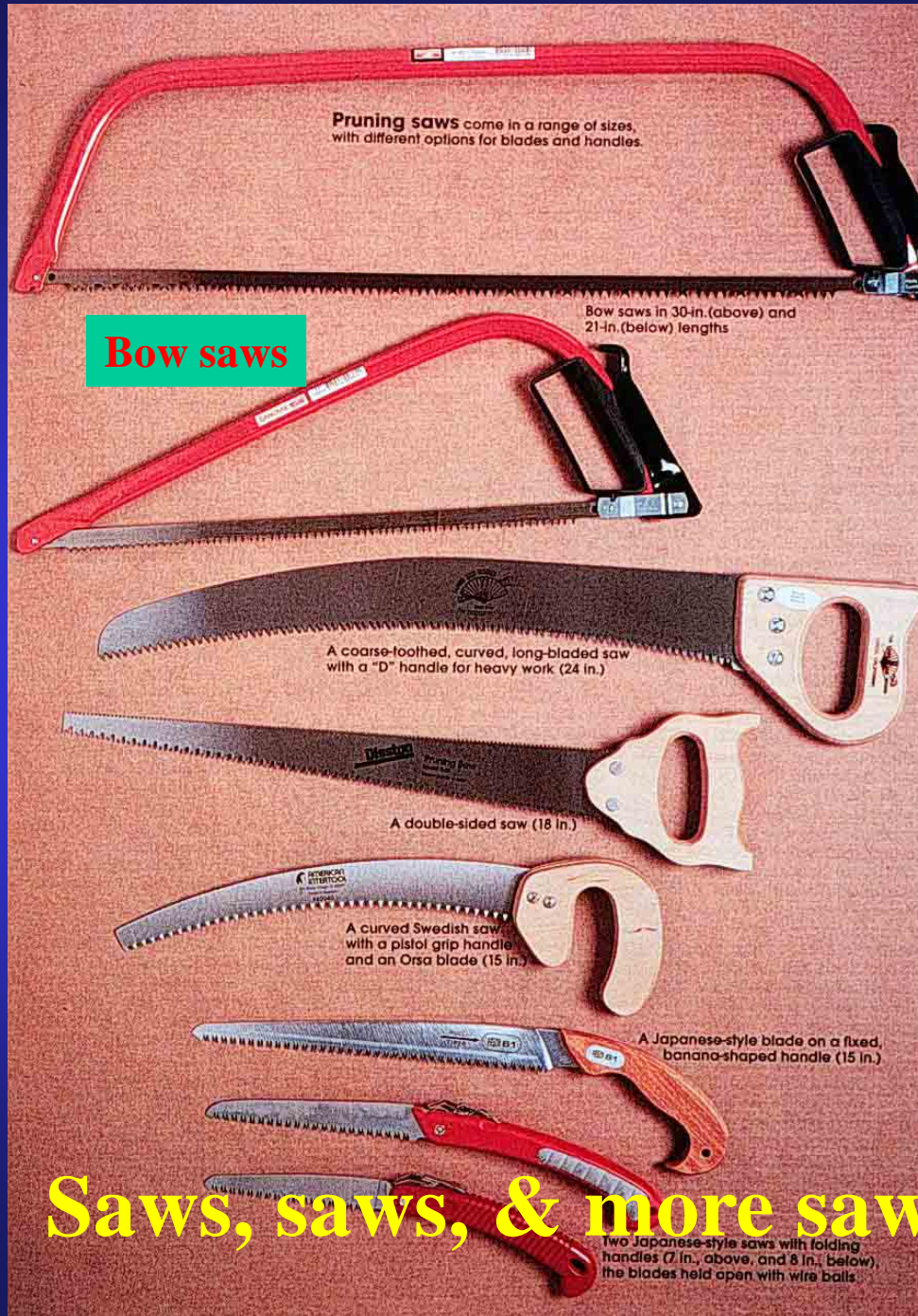


Hand shear



Folding saw





Pruning saws come in a range of sizes, with different options for blades and handles.

Bow saws

Bow saws in 30-in. (above) and 21-in. (below) lengths

A coarse-toothed, curved, long-bladed saw with a "D" handle for heavy work (24 in.)

A double-sided saw (18 in.)

A curved Swedish saw with a pistol grip handle and an Orsa blade (15 in.)

A Japanese-style blade on a fixed, banana-shaped handle (15 in.)

Saws, saws, & more saws

Two Japanese-style saws with folding handles (7 in., above, and 8 in., below) the blades held open with wire balls

Cool Season Turf



Warm Season Turf

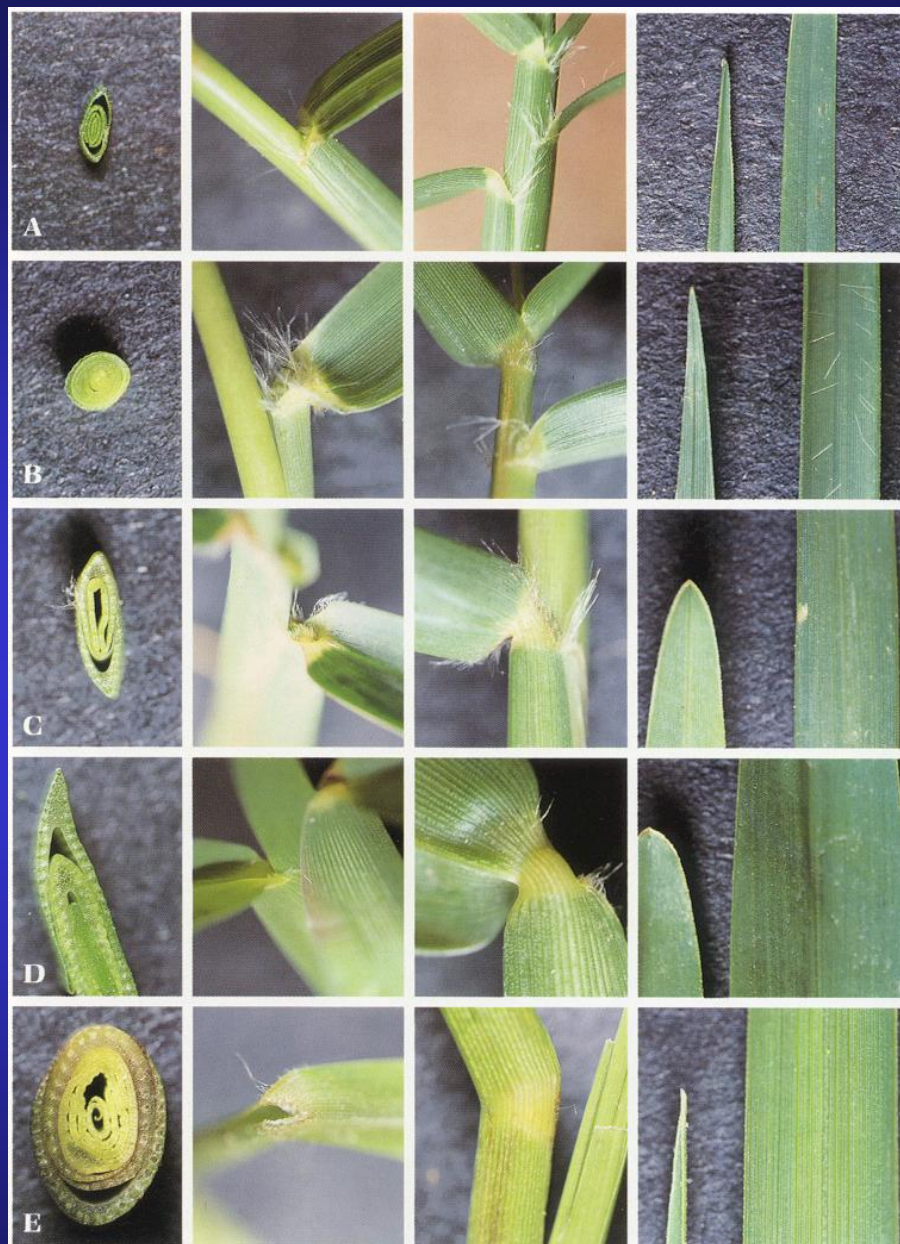


Plate 4. Vegetative characteristics of five warm-season grasses viewed at the same magnification. **A.** Bermudagrass. **B.** Zoysiagrass. **C.** Centipedegrass. **D.** St. Augustinegrass. **E.** Bahiagrass. (See Table 1 for descriptions of characteristics; photos: NYSAES.)



Daylily Rust

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The following information is being provided as a disease update in case this problem should appear in your county.

In mid-August, a new rust disease was confirmed on daylilies (*Heemerocallis*) growing in Arkansas. To date, the rust has been reported in 24 states and is currently confined to

wiped with an ordinary white facial tissue. An orange-yellow stain on the tissue will result if the rust is present on the leaves.

Daylily rust can be easily confused with other leaf problems such as insect damage (e.g., mites) and leaf streak disease, which is caused by another fungus. Spots associated with



