

Master Gardeners of Ontario

What's Growing On
MAGAZINE



Serving Ontario for over 25 Years

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Summer, 2012

www.mgoi.ca



Espalier of Apples and Pears

By Isia Yeo Durham MG

In the 16th century English and French gardeners made good use of the small strip of land beside the wall; where they trained fruit trees to grow on a flat plane. This technique, called espalier was practical, productive and visually interesting; a joining of art and science.

The principal of an espaliered fruit tree is to create a symmetrical growth pattern with fruit buds all along the branches. There are several forms to choose from; some more suited to the growth habits of certain types of fruit. The most common forms for apple and pear trees are any of the horizontal palmette or cordons. You will need to create a support that will be large enough to accommodate the mature tree and strong enough to hold fruit laden branches.

Creating any espalier tree takes patience; in general each horizontal arm will take a year to form and continuous pruning to maintain clean lines and shape. Dwarf and semi-dwarf trees are better suited to the training and maintenance requirements of an espalier, as this can be accomplished without the use of a ladder.

Start with a maiden whip, planting it away from the *continued on page 2*

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I Have This Rose

Edythe Falconer, Ottawa

But what if you have a couple hundred roses? Pruning challenges multiply when collections include climbers, shrub roses, once flowering and repeat flowering roses. Basic rules can help cautious clippers gain confidence in nipping and clipping roses for form and performance.



Explorer Rose George Vancouver Growing at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa

First up is the “perfect cut” at angle 45 degrees 1/4 inch above an outward facing bud. Since rose canes don’t all stand at a 90-degree angle to ground level, artistic judgment enters in. The D’s are a motley crew, Dead, Damaged and Diseased, not a cheery team. Dead parts should be removed down to visible cambium. Pruning for Damage is at the discretion of the pruner. Usually it’s best to go all out and cut as if Dead. Disease, if it’s a bad one, e.g. rose canker, calls for removal with sterilized pruners.

If canes cross one another then one cane needs to go. The efficient pruner will ‘open up the middle’ to provide aeration for prevention of potential fungus diseases. ‘Pencil thins’, weak straggly canes, distract plant energy from strong more productive canes. Suckers around the base of bushes should be cut back deeply but without damaging major roots.

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What's Growing On is the newsletter of the Master Gardeners of Ontario, Inc. It is published 4 times per year in January, April, July, and October.

Espalier from page 1

support, about 4 – 6 inches, so it has air circulation and room to grow. The first set of buds should be about 18 inches above the ground and as close to opposite as possible as these will be the lowest arms.



pear espalier in the cordon style

Depending on the shape you are creating this may be all you are looking for. In a double or triple cordon you will need one other bud above these two, to become the leader. Cut on a 45 degree angle just above the top bud.

When the buds are about 4 inches long you will want to attach them to bamboo stakes, this is to keep the branch as straight as possible while growing. The bamboo can then be secured to your support at the angle you need. The header is secured as straight as possible and the two lateral arms can be secured at a 45 degree angle and lowered as they continue to grow. The more vertical a limb is the faster it will grow. Horizontal limbs are slower growing and produce fruit.

The natural growth habit of a branch is to grow vertical. If the tips of a horizontal branch are left they will turn up, this is how a design like a candelabra and a double u-palmette are created. It is very important to know what design you are creating and that you plan your espalier, so that you leave enough space between arms and leaders to accommodate the finished design. The distance between arms will need to be 12 – 18 inches.

Leaders should be a minimum of 15 inches apart, but keep in mind the lowest arms will need to be long enough to allow for the number of leaders that will be formed between the central leader and the outside leaders.

General maintenance will begin from the time the tree is planted. Unwanted buds can be removed by gently rubbing them off with your thumb. Cut lateral branches back to a single leaf. Pinch side shoots at the base of the shoot once it has grown 3 leaves past the whorl. Knowing when to pinch shoots from old fruiting branches is a little more difficult, as weather and growing habits factor in. If they are pinched too soon new shoots will form.

Most apple and pear trees produce fruit along the arm of the tree or spur-bearing. Fruit is produced on old wood, so be careful not to cut into the old wood of the spur. As a tree matures it may need to be rejuvenated, overcrowded spurs will need to be thinned.

With continued pruning and attention to the growth of your espalier tree you can not only have a beautiful specimen in your garden, but also a bountiful harvest.

On the Pruning of Trees

Gary Westlake, Peterborough (published previously in the Peterborough Examiner)

Trees do not grow the same as we do. They grow in circumference around their trunks and branches. They also grow at the tips of the branches. A branch that begins from the trunk at a height of one metre from the ground will continue to grow from this

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Roses from page 1

Timely removal of older, less productive canes encourages younger cane growth.

Pruning roses is an ongoing process. Ideally pruning to control Ds and form should be done before the buds break dormancy. In nature, of course, Ds and their companion problems can occur at any time. Cane borers are an unpleasant example of this need.

Deadheading is especially important for repeat bloomers. Neglect this job and the second bloom may be less than satisfactory. De-petalling is an option in late summer if hips are desired for winter viewing. Roses that bloom on last year's growth should not be pruned in the spring. However in Ottawa the rabbits or Old Man Winter usually make this caution irrelevant.

Climbers are the peacocks of the rose world. Six or seven strong canes can be arranged in the shape of a fan with each pruned to roughly the same length. Each side branch of each main cane can be cut back to two or three buds. Some remaining canes can be retained as backups in case of damage. Do this in early or late winter when the roses are dormant.

Whole books can be written on the gentle and not so gentle art of pruning roses. However sometimes books are more daunting than roses. Roses are tough. Feed them, water them and don't let them get straggly. Other than that they are very hard to kill.

Pruning Clematis

Isabel Belanger, Etobicoke

Pruning clematis may seem complicated, however clematis is quite forgiving and will grow and bloom whether you prune it or not. It will also grow if you prune it to the ground, but may not produce flowers in that particular year. Pruning clematis properly, though, will optimize growth and flowering, resulting in a more productive vine.

Knowing to what group your clematis belongs is key as clematis is pruned according to whether it belongs to group A, B, or C (1, 2, or 3).

Group A (1): are early spring blooming clematis that flower on the previous year's growth, on short flower stalks emanating from a leaf axil. It is important not to prune group 1 until after they flower, albeit as soon as possible after flowering. Pruning is done primarily to remove dead and weak



Guernsey Cream

stems, or to contain growth. Large old vines can be pruned fairly hard, down to some vigorous growth, however vines may take a year to recover and flower again. Species in group 1 include *alpina*, *macropetala*, and *montana*.

Group B (2): produce flowers from the previous year's growth, but often produce flowers on the current year's growth.

Cultivars include early large flowering, double and semi-double, and mid-season large flowered clematis. Group 2 is the most complicated to prune.

Dead and damaged tips of the stems should be pruned in late winter/early spring, once the leaf axil buds begin to swell. The plant should be shortened by about 5-10", working down from the tips, following each stem until you come to a pair of large, swelling leaf axil buds. Ray Evison, the well-known clematis grower, recommends staggering the height of the stems slightly, pruning two or three of the stems down to 1-2 feet to encourage fresh growth at the base of the plant. Check out Ray Evison's advice on his website raymondviseoncllematis.com

Group C (3): are the easiest types to prune. They flower later in the season on new growth and therefore can be pruned hard depending on the age of the plant. In early winter/late spring, all the previous season's growth should be cut back to at least 30" from the ground for established plants, again to a swelling leaf bud axil; younger plants should be cut back further to establish bushier growth. *Viticella* and *Texensis* species, as well as the popular *jackmanii* are included in Group 3.

Comment on Worms

Catherine Kavassalis, Halton MGs

I am concerned with the article on earth worms. We continue to spread the notion that earth worms are beneficial. They are invasive species and can do great harm to forest ecosystems. We should inform MGs of the alternative perspective well expressed here:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialanimals/earthworms/index.html>

Events

July 7 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Bobcaygeon Garden Tour. Admission \$15.00. Haliburton MGs will have an advice clinic. Contact Linda Friend (Bobcaygeon Horticultural Society) at lindaafriend2005@yahoo.ca

July 14 and 15 – The 5th Annual M.G.O.I. Summer Workshop will be held at the Niagara Parks Botanical Gardens and School of Horticulture. Three topics are being offered: An Investigative Tour of Insects and Diseases that Affect Coniferous and Deciduous Trees; An Investigative Tour of Insects and Diseases that Affect Selected Shrubs, Perennials, Annuals and Turf; The Urban Farmer – Growing Fruit and Vegetables Close to Home. Further information go to www.mgoi.ca and you will find the Programme Outline on the home page. For more contact June Streadwick streadwick@sympatico.ca or 905-934-6137.

Saturday August 18 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at beautiful Rock Wall Gardens just east of Perth – Lanark County Master Gardener group celebrates 25 Years in Lanark County with an Open House featuring demos and desserts.

September 4 – 7:00 p.m. at Minden Community Centre – Presentation by Haliburton group to the Minden Horticultural Society on Concepts in Garden Design. Contact Janice Hardy at halmastergardener@gmail.com

September 8 – 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. – North York Garden Club Annual Flower and Vegetable Show and Café. Please note: New Location – Edithvale Community Centre, 131 Finch Avenue West

September 17 – 21 – Fall in the Hudson River Valley – Gardens and Estates of the Hudson River Valley presented by the Northumberland Master Gardeners. Includes return coach transportation, shared accommodation with hot buffet breakfast, all garden entrance fees. \$675.00 Canadian (Single Supplement add \$350.00.) For more information contact Helen Lackey 905-377-9803 or helen.lackey@gmail.com

October 13 – The 6th Annual Coordinators' Conference will be held at the Landscape Ontario facility in Milton.

October 20 – Technical Update at the Simcoe County Museum in Midhurst, details to follow.

Sept 29 – 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Stoney Creek YMCA Community Centre, 920 Sunningdale Road East in London – London Middlesex is hosting a 'Fall Event' with a speaker from a commercial bulb grower talking about the 'Dig, Drop, Done' bulb programme and a presentation on 'Saving Seeds' by a representative of Seeds of Diversity. Cost is \$5.00 per person and no registration is necessary. Proceeds will be donated to 'Growing Chefs Ontario' (www.growingchefsontario.ca)

Milestones

New MGITs

Etobicoke – Christine Spence

Grey County – Margaret-Ann Brennan

Haliburton County – Janet Divell, Milka Hider

Halton Region – Valerie Love, Elizabeth Richards, Christine Says, Chris Schofield

Northumberland – Marion Jean

Ottawa-Carleton – Judith Courteau, Caroline Dabrus, Leah Walker

Peterborough – Anne English, Mary Jane (MJ) Pilgrim

Stratford – Maureen Cocksedge, Robyn Gallimore, Michele Hoffle-King, Susan McLennan, who transferred from the disbanded Oxford group

New MGs

Brantford – Vae Hammett, Christa Hunter, Larry Sagar, Anne Saunders

Northumberland – Marli Beer

Peterborough – Margaret Higgins

5 Years

Elgin County – Agnes Burroughs

Ottawa-Carleton – Gail Labrosse

10 Years

Lanark County – Dale Odorizzi

Northumberland – Betty DeLong

Ottawa-Carleton – David Hinks

15 Years

Elgin County – Bob Fox, Gail Jacques, Helen Smith, Brenda Swindell, Diane Vaughan

Northumberland – Ann Slemming

Sudbury – Joanne MacLellan

20 Years

Sudbury – George Stassen

25 Years

Sudbury – Enzo Floreani, Tina Hansen

*Ontario Horticultural Association and
Master Gardeners of Ontario Inc.*



**Working
Together**



Here is the [latest issue OHA's newsletter the Trillium.](#)

The Survey Says?

If you were advising a new gardener, what plants would you suggest that they choose for a shady area and why? Click on this link to give us your opinion and we will publish the results next issue. Just [fill in this form](#) and click on the submit button. We ask that you provide your name and group so that we know that you are not one of those nasty cyber robots. Please send us your suggestions for other short surveys we can challenge Master Gardeners with.

MGs in Action

25 Years Celebration

Sudbury MGs are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. In addition to the annual Plant Sale, organized in conjunction with the Sudbury Horticultural Society at the Gardening Festival, they were pleased to present 'An Evening with Denis Flanagan'. Denis entertained the crowd and the evening was very successful! They were also pleased to award Honorary MG status to Wayne Hugli.

Celebrations

Congratulations to the following groups on their anniversaries:

10 years – Norfolk County

15 years – Guelph and Wellington County

25 years – Lanark, Sudbury

From Seeds to Your Table

Nancy Abra, London Middlesex (originally published in The Londoner)



MGs and participants of the London Middlesex course

A sense of pride was the consensus from both the student gardeners and their Master Gardener instructors at the final class of the course 'From Seeds to Your Table' last month. The eight week gardening course covered the basic steps of learning about the soil and compost, starting seeds, information on weed, insect and disease management to various

garden concepts of growing vegetables, herbs and flowers, as well as preserving the harvest through drying, freezing and canning.

The 'From Seeds to Your Table' course was developed by the London Middlesex Master Gardeners in partnership with the Friends of the London Civic Garden Centre and the London Community Resource Centre (LCRC). The twenty-one community garden plots throughout the City of London are managed by the LCRC. The need for this course was evident as more and more people want to grow their own food but lack good basic gardening skills. The partnership hoped for an initial class of about 10 participants; 63 people registered. Three classes of twenty were accommodated.

Linda Davies, Executive Director of the London Community Resource Centre said, "I have the greatest respect for these Master Gardeners and their commitment to educate others to enhance their gardening experience. This gardening course has not only strengthened the partnership that was already in place with LCRC but it also provided the Master Gardeners with the chance to connect with community gardeners." Davies continued by stating, "Community gardeners by their very nature like to share their experiences so the information will reach beyond those who attended the course. The turn out each week speaks to the enthusiasm of the gardeners and the final evaluation reaffirmed their enjoyment of the course."

Gail Dimson, General Manager, of The Friends of the London Civic Garden Complex, stated that she saw the need for this type of course but did not have the volunteers to present it. Community partnerships can accomplish more than going it alone. Participants in the course seemed to agree. On the final evaluations participants raved about an excellent course with comments like, "Thank you for a very valuable experience, I highly recommend this course to anyone who wants to garden!"

The London Middlesex Master Gardener Coordinator, Donna Slater said, "I am so delighted we have such forward thinking people in our Master Gardener group. Two members, Dorothy McGee and Nancy Abra, saw a need for basic gardening knowledge that has been lost by many people of the last generation for reasons such as urban living, busy fast lives filled with frozen pizza and grocery store convenience." Slater continued by explaining, "As the idea moved ahead, partnerships were developed and a successful start to small urban agriculture in London came about. Carrots come from dirt and salsa is made from tomatoes!" Slater declared, "And I am very proud of our Master Gardeners".

The Last Mystery

editors

The mystery plant was guessed as *Caulophyllum thalictroides* – Blue Cohosh by Catherine Kavassalis – Halton, Janet Trezise – LSSMG, and Cathy Dueck – Honorary MG and Manager, Landscape Programs Peterborough Green Up. Cathy also added that it's a lovely woodland plant (hard to propagate though as its seeds sometimes take 4 to 5 years to germinate). When it's emerging in the spring it looks like a purple claw.

We are giving the Mystery Plants a rest for a while.

Pruning Article On the Haliburton Website

Janice Hardy Haliburton Master Gardener

One of the most important aspects of tree and shrub management is knowing how and when to prune – done correctly the specimen will be not only aesthetically pleasing but healthy. Pruning is not difficult once you understand the basics of how, why and when to prune.

There are several reasons why gardeners should prune trees and shrubs. Pruning should be done to promote health and growth by removing dead or dying branches injured by disease, insect infestation, storms or other damage. Branches that are rubbing together will eventually create an opportunity for disease so one of the two should be removed. Disinfect tools between cuts if disease is present or suspected.

The development of a strong framework in deciduous trees through proper thinning and formative training will help prevent disease and loss of vigour while maintaining the natural form of the tree. Ideally a tree should be pruned to allow a few strong limbs well spaced apart up and down the trunk. Pruning begins with the young tree and continues over a period of time, as the tree gets larger. Evergreen trees rarely need pruning, as they tend to develop a strong structure naturally.

Pruning can also be done to rejuvenate older trees and shrubs. In trees, pruning part of the crown increases air circulation and reduces the leaf area that the root system supports. The remaining branches will grow more vigorously enhancing the health and appearance of the tree. Larger branches need to be pruned using a three-step cut method to

reduce the weight of the branch. The first cut is done from underneath at about 30 cm from the trunk. This is to prevent the branch from breaking off and tearing the bark. The second cut is done a little further out on the branch from the first cut until the branch breaks away. The third cut is done just outside the branch collar.

Pruning is also done to maintain the intended purpose in the landscape: encouraging flower and fruit development; maintaining a dense form for a privacy hedge; maintaining a desired shape; improving bark or foliage colour for winter interest in some species (e.g. dogwoods, heather). Size can be managed if needed but ideally trees and shrubs are selected with existing space in mind.

Plant appearance can be improved through judicious pruning. For most landscapes, the plant's natural form is often the most desired. Pruning can be done to control the plant size as may be the case with both shrubs and trees. Light pruning will keep evergreens well-proportioned and looking good. Branches and undesirable fruiting structures that detract from the overall appearance of the plant can be removed.

Pruning for safety – to protect people and property – should also be done. This means removing dead branches, pruning out narrow-angled tree branches that overhang homes and walkways or anywhere that a falling limb might cause injury or property damage. Hazardous trees may have to be taken down by a qualified tree removal service. Crown lifting may need to be done for trees near walkways and roads. This entails removing lower branches for the clearance required

Pruning for special effects such as topiary, bonsai and espalier can also be done with specific pruning techniques.

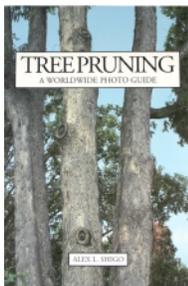
The appropriate pruning tools should be used for the job at hand. Hand secateurs can be used to prune young trees and most shrubs. Loppers are a good choice for somewhat larger tree branches and a pruning saw – either manual or motorized – is best for large branches greater than eight centimeters in diameter. Be sure to use the right tool for the size of branch: if the branch does not fit nicely into the jaws of the tool, it is time to move up to the next. Tools need to be rust free and sharp. If disease is present, tools must be disinfected after each cut.

There is much useful information on the various MG group websites like the article above. Check them out through the [links on mgoi.ca](http://links.on.mgoi.ca).

Book Review – Tree Pruning by Alex Shigo

Mary Beerman, Durham

Dr. Alex Shigo is recognized as the father of modern tree care. One of his books, *Tree Pruning, A Worldwide Photo Guide* is an accessible, must-have handbook for those who plan on using their secateurs (www.shigoandtrees.com).



Before heading out into your garden to shape and clean or add that fabulous new specimen take time to consider these Shigo pruning principles:

- *Wrong Tree, Wrong Place.* As we witness throughout our neighborhoods and look even into our own yards the wrong tree in the wrong place results in mutilation; trying to make the wrong tree 'fit'. Plan for your tree or shrub. Know its size and shape. Discipline your planting for its full maturity.
- *Flush Cuts.* When you make a flush cut you are cutting off the branch's collar. Removing a collar destroys the plant's major defense system. Note that the collar belongs to the parent stem not the branch being pruned. An important difference! A collar that is left intact is able to develop a callus, a protection from infection and disease.
- *Stub Cuts.* Stub cuts are those pruning cuts we make that are too far away from the collar. Living or dead stub cuts are avenues for organisms that start rot and cankers. Leaving a swollen branch collar is not a stub.
- *Topping and Tipping Large Trees.* A perfect example of topping and tipping is what utility companies do to trees planted under hydro wires. There are several solutions: don't plant near utilities, plant only small trees or start pruning the tree when it is small. Young trees and mature trees respond very differently to pruning. Know the difference!
- *Over Pruning.* Over pruning actually destroys a plant's natural framework. Over pruning reduces photosynthesis potential. A starving tree or shrub is vulnerable to infestation and disease. Remember: pruning is a series of well-placed cuts throughout the life of the tree or shrub.
- *Improper Pollarding.* Some of us have probably seen too many improperly pollarded trees to see it as anything other than mutilation. Proper

pollarding is a fine tree practice and requires a tree that lends itself to the practice. Pollarding is a pruning regimen that should be established when the specimen is young and small.

- *Wound Dressings.* Dressing a wound or a poor pruning cut will not stop rot. Applying dressing over a poor cut or over rotting or infected wood will not stop the infection. It may in fact stimulate the rot. Woundwood is not callus. Some dressings may stimulate the formation of woundwood, preventing closure over the wound. No more pruning paste.

Canadian Master Gardener Conference on April 5 – 7, 2013

Tena van Andel, Toronto

Many a good garden sacrificed!

While many of us were out enjoying all that is new in this year's garden, a few other diligent MGs were plunked in front of a computer planting another kind of garden. Instead of planting their own gardens, they planted the seeds for the Canadian Master Gardener Conference on April 5 – 7, 2013 aptly titled 'Come Grow With Us'. These seeds have blossomed and yielded more riches than we could ever have imagined, and we want everyone to share in the bountiful harvest.

Fill your basket with three thought provoking keynote speakers:

Spencer Barrett on 'Darwin's Botanical Legacy'. Learn why that pretty flower in your garden, is not quite so dumb as you might think.

Catherine Kavassalis on 'Our trees, a Walk Through Time'. Learn why it's not just us doing the walking.

Suzanne Barrett on 'Gardening for Healthy Watersheds'. Learn how we may avoid the plight of the Ancient Mariner, 'Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink'.

Plus, you may choose from 16 breakout sessions ranging from living walls, green roofs, phenology, phytoremediation, garden language, pests, photography, writing and presentation skills, soil, community gardening and permaculture. Whew, how will you choose just two? Not to mention, loot, good food, mystery guests.

Please, book now for the Early Bird Discount, the best rooms at Deerhurst and your favourite breakout sessions. Do it for those sacrificed gardens. Go to www.mgoationalconference.ca now.

On Pruning Trees from page 2

Tree branches should be pruned just outside the collar so that the tree can cover the wound as quickly as possible.

height for the rest of the life of the tree unless the branch dies or is taken off. Trees also respond differently to injury than we do. Instead of trying to repair a damaged area, trees abandon it and wall it off from the rest of the tree to prevent the spread of disease and the entry of insects.

You would think that trees, whose ancestors have been growing for thousands of years, would not need any help from us to grow properly to maturity. However, trees that are adapted to grow in forest environments, will not necessarily perform well in open areas or urban locations without a little pruning. The forest is very different from the places where we want these trees to grow because the forest floor is covered with decomposing leaf litter and in the forest, the trees sprout up close to each other competing for light. Successful individual trees will stretch straight and tall for a piece of the sun. As they do so, the lower branches are cast off early while they are small and the only ones left are at the top in the canopy.

Trees growing in open urban settings without pruning tend to look chaotic with branches going in all directions and at all angles from the trunk. They do not have the normal forest cues for growth and they end up with weak branching and with too many branches. But a little pruning in the first few years of these trees lives can make a great difference.

It is not good to prune a tree for a couple of years after planting so that it can get safely through the trauma of having its roots slashed and so that it can adjust to a completely new environment.

The first thing you need to keep in mind is to protect the central leader so that the tree can grow straight and free of disease down through its central core. If for some reason, the leader gets lost, then you need to create one by selecting another branch and allowing only one to reach for the top. If the leader is removed later in the tree's life, it opens a channel directly from the top for water and rot to take out the supporting wood in the centre of the trunk. So one of the worst things you can do to a tree is top it in an attempt to restrict its height.

The next thing you need to do over the first few years is to decide where the lowest branches will be and as the young tree grows, gradually remove branches until you get to the desired height. As you do this, look at how the other branches come off the trunk. Any that are at steep angles should be removed because they will produce weak connections to the trunk where ice can accumulate and cause damage.

If you realize that the leaves of the tree will compete with each other for available light, then pruning will be easier. If leaves do not get enough light, they and the branches that carry them will die. This is why hedges are dead in the middle. You can assist by pruning off some branches so that they are evenly spread and so that they do not interfere with each other both vertically and around the trunk. Not only will this help the tree maximize the light to the leaves, but it will also allow the air to flow through which reduces disease and improves photosynthesis, respiration and transpiration. Leave some room for the birds to fly through. If you are pruning an apple tree, you should be able to throw your hat through the tree when you finish. There are two additional benefits: the tree will look natural as if it were growing in the forest; and the tree will be strong, resistant to disease, insects and storm damage. A small amount of work during the first few years of the tree's life will prevent very expensive and dangerous work later.

Although it is natural to want the tree to be large as soon as possible, you need to resist the urge to plant large trees. If you plant a tiny whip next to a ten foot tree, the whip will catch up to the ten footer in a few years because the larger tree undergoes a lot of trauma and has to recover more. The tree planted smaller will be stronger in the end because it will adjust to the site as it grows. Trees bend to the prevailing winds and strengthen their trunks and branches in the direction needed. Moving a tree eliminates this process.