

# Ohio Chapter International Society of Arboriculture Fruit Tree & Shade Tree Training Tips

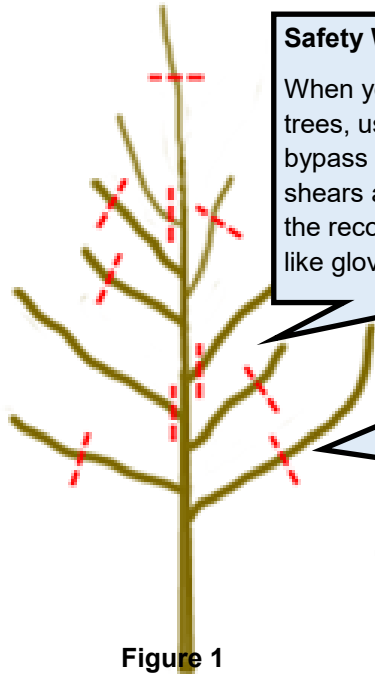


Figure 1

Red lines show pruning cuts.

## Safety Warning

When you train trees, use scissor bypass pruning shears and wear the recommended safety gear like gloves and safety glasses.



Each branch is pruned at 18" of length from tree trunk to a bud.

## How to Train a Young Fruit or Shade Tree

The central leader is the main leader (trunk), or dominant shoot, in the center of the tree. You will select three to five branches for the first tier, three to four for the second tier, and one or two branches for the third tier. The selected branches will be cut 18 inches from central leader near a exiting bud. (See Figure 1)



Figure 2

These branches can be scattered throughout the central leader at various spacings. The main objective during each growing season is to develop another layer of scaffolds, which should be 24 to 36 inches above the first layer established during the previous season. (See Figure 2)

## The Right Time to Train a Tree:

The training practice starts immediately after planting the trees or the year after planting. If a tree is not adequately trained the tree can likely create defects that result in the tree being defective.

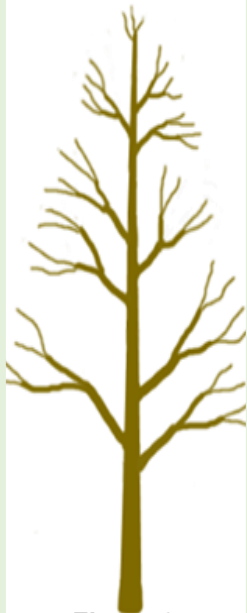


Figure 3

Select branches that do not lie directly above any tier scaffolds, but that instead fill the space between scaffolds below. Remove shoots that compete with the central leader and other undesirable shoots. Always select branches that grow at a 60-90 degree angle from the central leader. Research shows that branches that later become load bearing limbs that grow at 60-90 degree angle to the central leader (trunk) are stronger and less likely to fail. By training your tree it will result in a central leader or trunk and its branches will be associated at 60-90 degree angles of attachment. (See Figure 3)

## What is Tree Training & Pruning?

Training is the practice of directing tree growth to a desired shape and form and it is usually performed on young trees. Pruning is the removal of a terminal portion of a branch or a whole branch to adjust or maintain tree structure. Pruning is part of the training process, but training can also include other techniques like clothespins, branch spreaders, tying, etc. Mature trees that have not been trained may need to be pruned regularly to improve structure.

The Ohio Chapter International Society of the Arboriculture is committed to advancing responsible tree care practices through research, technology, and education while promoting the benefits of trees.

There are over 1,000 qualified tree experts in the Ohio that have been designated by the ISA as Certified Arborists. To find an ISA Certified Arborist in your area, visit [www.Trees4Ohio.org](http://www.Trees4Ohio.org).

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