



#### DON'T FORGET TO ADD WATER

Generally, newly-planted trees and shrubs need to be watered regularly for two to three years until their root systems become established. Without adequate rainfall, established trees may have to be watered as often as every 10-14 days.

Trees will respond best to slow, deep watering. If the ground is level, let an open hose run at a trickle, moving it around the tree for good distribution. A sprinkler or soaker may also be used. If the slope is severe, a root-watering needle may be necessary. Keep the top 8-12 inches of soil evenly moist throughout dry periods. Excessively dry soils cause the death of small roots, reducing the tree's capacity to absorb water. You can't tell how much moisture is in the soil by simply looking at it; the only way to be sure is to probe, or dig below the surface. Low-cost soil moisture meters are not accurate, so a metal rod, such as the end of a root feeder (without the water running) may be the best tool to use. Very dry soil will resist penetration of the rod, which most certainly indicates the need for watering.



PLEASE,  
NO MULCH  
VOLCANOES.

#### THE VALUE OF MULCH

Mulching is also an important part of caring for your trees and plants. It helps to insulate soil temperature, retains moisture, keeps out weeds, prevents lawnmower damage and adds the finishing touch to the landscape.

Remove any grass within a three-foot area and apply wood chips or bark pieces two to three inches deep. Keep the mulch from touching the trunk and remember that too much mulch can kill trees and shrubs by leading to rot and disease.

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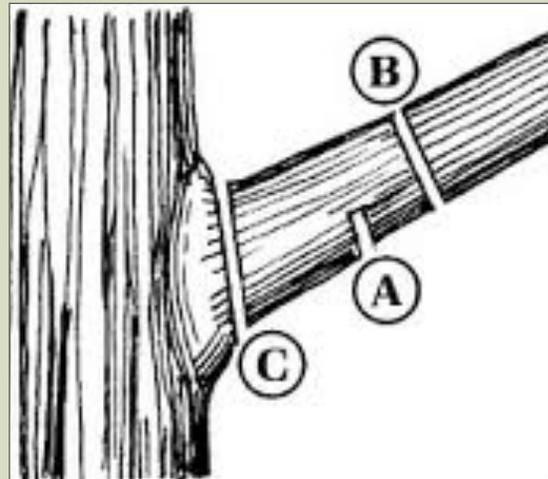
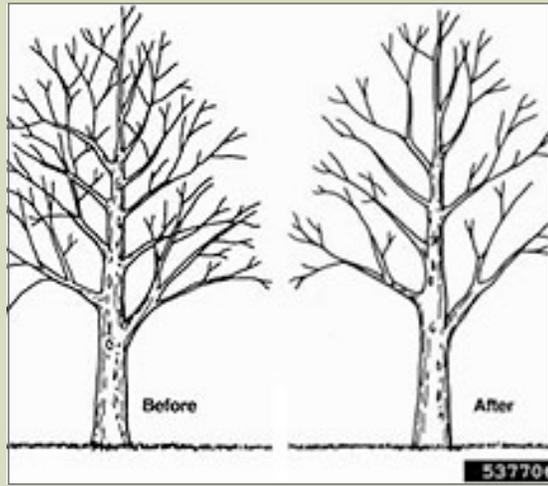
**If you have a property maintenance question, call Mentor's Code Enforcement Office at (440) 974-5740. For other questions related to tree care, contact the OSU Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteer Helpline at (440) 350-2582.**

# TREE CARE GUIDE



Please maintain the street tree in front of your home as you would care for trees and plants growing elsewhere on your property. They add beauty and value to your home and neighborhoods and help conserve energy, clean the air and provide a home for wildlife.

# Maintenance is Required



HOW TO PROPERLY PRUNE

*First, cut partway through the branch from the underside (A). The second cut (B) is made through the branch from the upper side. The third and final cut is the most crucial (C). Don't make it flush with the trunk, which would cause a large wound and a greater possibility for the introduction of decay. Look for the swelling where the branch arises from the trunk (branch collar) and this is where that final cut should be made.*

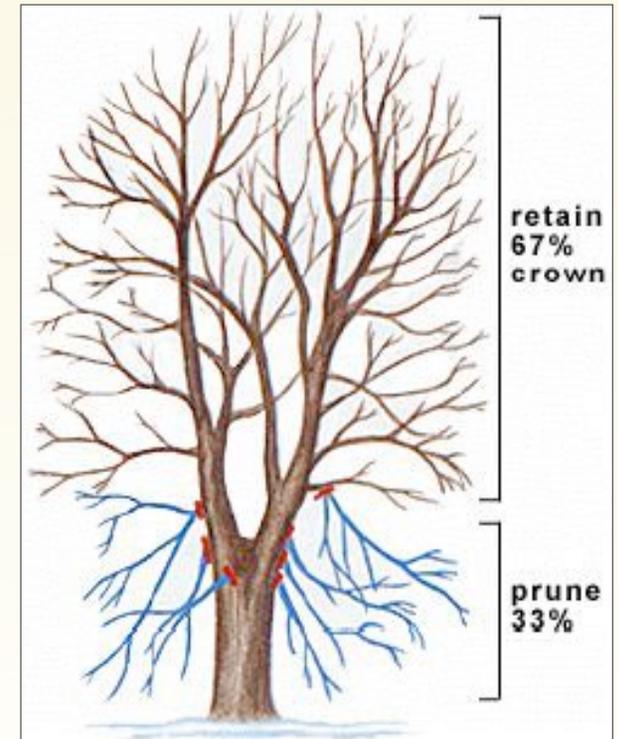
Mentor has ordinances requiring property owners to maintain their property and any trees located within the public right-of-way (or treelawn). Trees must be trimmed so they don't create an obstruction for pedestrians and motorists. **Branches that hang over the sidewalk or right-of-way should be kept at seven feet above a sidewalk, and 14 feet above a public road.** Residents are also responsible for removing any dead branches that overhang a public sidewalk or roadway or interfere with the visibility of street or traffic signs.

## PRUNE TREES FOR FORM

The best time to prune is mid-February to early May, however, there are a few exceptions. Maples, walnuts, birch, beech, hornbeam and yellow-wood are known as "bleeders" and should be pruned only after all foliage has fully emerged. Spring flowering trees should be pruned after flowers have dropped.

Young trees should be pruned regularly to provide strong branch structure for future growth. Select central structural branches that are at least 10" to 18" apart and evenly distributed around the trunk. Branches should not grow directly above one another. Maintain a single leader, as long as possible.

Pruning cuts should always be made near the base of a branch; do not leave a stub. When a crown is dense, look for limbs that turn inward and those that extend beyond the natural outline of the crown. Prune at the trunk or down to an



appropriate lateral branch. Over-pruning can damage or even kill your tree. Always maintain at least two thirds of the tree as the live crown.

*Prompt attention should be given to hazards, such as: storm-damaged limbs, dead branches and low, thorn-bearing branches.*