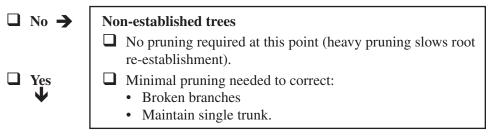


GARDENING SERIES Colorado MASTER GARDENER

Pruning Flow Chart for Shade Trees no. 7.824

by D. Whiting¹

Do the roots become re-established following transplanting (as evidenced by current growth)?



Established trees

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- ⇒ Natural growth habit?
 - **Decurrent tree** (multiple scaffold branches) \rightarrow See page 2.
 - **Excurrent tree** (single trunk to top)

Pruning objectives on excurrent trees:

- 1. Broken, damaged and competing branches
 - No corrective action needed at this time
 - □ Remove branch(es)
- Maintain single trunk to top
 No corrective action needed at this time
 - Pruning needed to correct co-dominant trunks or competing trunks.
- 3. Select lowest permanent branch
 - Select lowest permanent branch
 - Lowest permanent branch previously selected
 - □ Tree needs to grow more before selection

- 4. Branches less than 1/2 the diameter of adjacent trunk (less than 1/3 preferred)
 - No corrective action needed at this time
 - Needs corrective pruning by:
 - Thinning branches to slow growth
 - Removing branches
- 5. Manage temporary branches, removing over time but before they reach a 2-inch diameter
 - No corrective action needed at this time
 - □ Needs corrective pruning by:
 - Removing branches
 - Thinning or heading back temporary branches



Putting Knowledge to Work

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Pruning objectives on decurrent trees:		
1.		oken, damaged and competing branches No corrective action needed at this time Remove branch(es)
2.		intain single dominant trunk into upper portions of mature tree size No corrective action needed at this time Pruning needed to correct co-dominant trunk(s) or competing secondary trunks.
3.		ect lowest scaffold branch Select lowest scaffold branch Lowest scaffold branch previously selected Tree needs to grow more before selection
4.		 ect other scaffold branches – Factors to consider: Co-dominant or competing branching (Branch diameter less than ¹/₂ trunk diameter) No corrective action needed at this time Corrective pruning needed by: Removing codominant branch(s) Thinning branch to slow growth (Note: pay attention to potential crotch angles)
	⊳	 Branch spacing (18" minimum on trees with mature size larger than 30', 6" minimum on smaller trees) No corrective action needed at this time Corrective pruning needed by: Removing temporary branch(es) Thinning or heading back temporary branch(es) to slow growth
	⇒	 Branch union (crotch) angles No corrective action needed at this time Remove branch(es)
	⇒	 Multiple branches originating at one site No corrective action needed at this time Remove branch(es)
5.	a 2-	 nage temporary branches, removing them over time (before they reach -inch size) No corrective action needed at this time Needs corrective pruning by: Removing branch(es) Thinning or heading back branch(es)

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