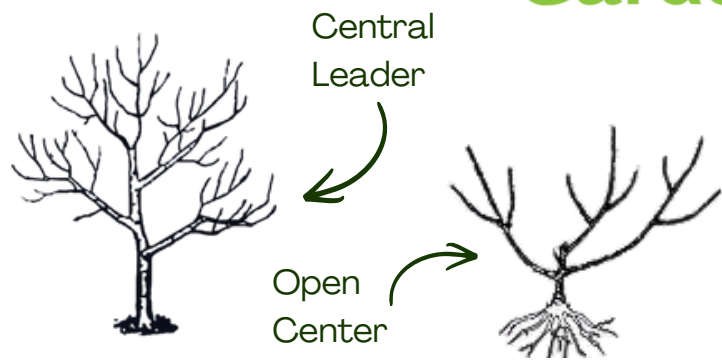


Dormant Pruning

WHY PRUNE

We primarily prune our fruit trees to

- improve structure
- improve airflow
- improve sunlight penetration
- limit height



DESIRED STRUCTURE

Depending on the type of tree, you'll either choose a

Central Leader or **Open Center** structure

- Apples, Pears, Tart Cherries - Central Leader
- Peaches, Apricots, Sweet Cherries - Open Center

WHEN?

Prune in the dormant season (Feb/Mar) when it's above 20 degrees and not actively raining/snowing

WHAT TO PRUNE?

Remove the 4 D's!

- Dead
- Diseased
- Damaged
- Disoriented

Never prune more than 30% of the living canopy (except for peaches, then you can prune up to 50%!)

Sanitize your pruners - especially when working with diseased trees!

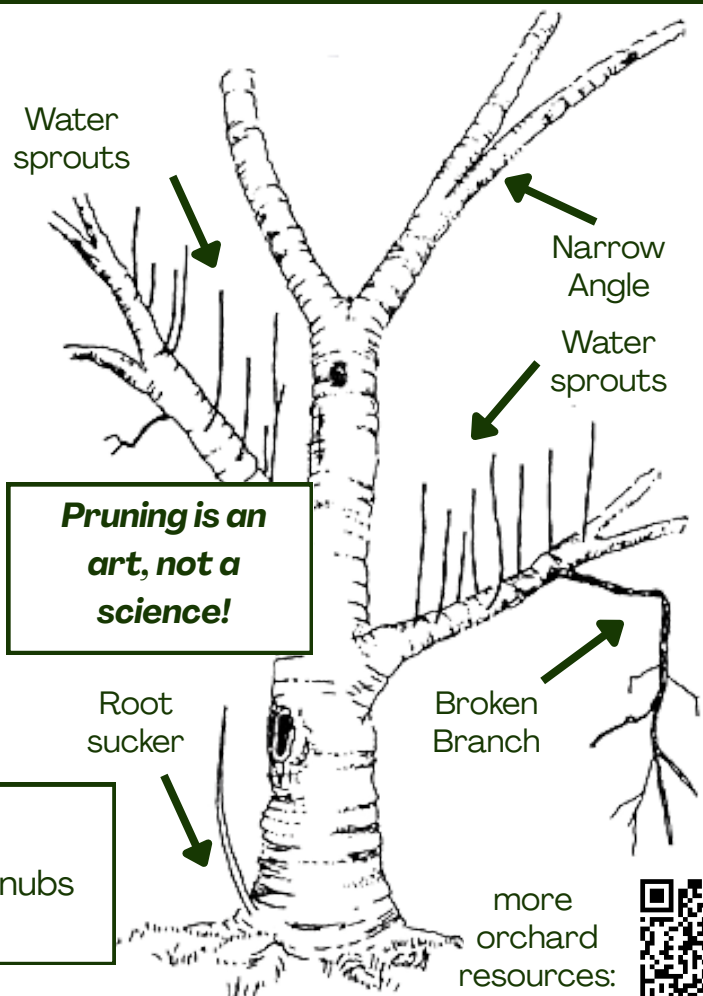
COMMON CULPRITS

Things we often remove when pruning ...

- Watersprouts
- Root suckers
- Narrow angles (can be adjusted with limb spreaders)

PRUNING CUTS

Cut back to a point of growth - don't leave nubs and don't cut into branch collars!



more
orchard
resources:

