

Pruning Information from Pflugerville's Forester

It is that time of year; many people are out sprucing up their yards and getting ready for spring. Here are some handy pruning tips!

Oak Trees: Susceptible to oak wilt fungus – Do not prune the following in the spring:

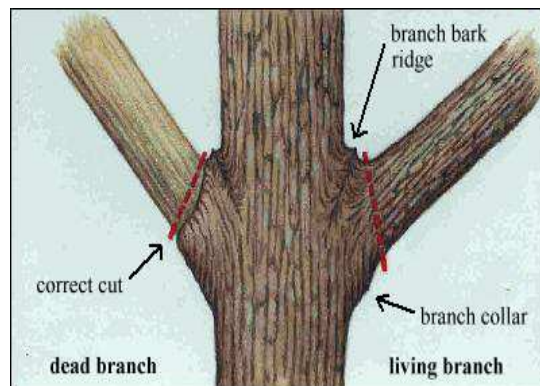
- Spanish Oak (Red Oak)
- Shumard Oak
- Live Oak

Prune these trees in late fall if possible. If you need to remove a broken or low hanging limb:

- Apply pruning paint immediately – Masks smell attracting the nitidulid beetle (carries the oak wilt fungus)
- Thick pruning sealers are not recommended as they trap moisture in the wound.

Crepe Myrtles: Do *not* need to be topped to produce an abundance of flowers.

- Topping is the practice of cutting limbs back leaving a stub
- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) recommends 'directional pruning' which means cutting back to a branch union and preserving the branch collar



Pruning cuts should be made at a branch union and preserve the branch collar.

- Crepe myrtles are very tolerant to pruning effects, but even larger trees often become hazardous from topped. Even under power lines, the ISA recommends 'directional pruning' to clear the limbs away.

Please visit the International Society of Arboriculture's consumer education website for more information: www.treesaregood.com or email me, and I will address your home owner's association, civic group, or school.

Happy Pruning!

April Thomas Rose
City Forester