

# PRUNING: MATURE TREES



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# Mature trees are usually not pruned

However, there are specific situations that require pruning on mature trees. Examples are removing dead branches or removing the lower branches.



# Crown cleaning

This is selective pruning to remove dead, diseased or broken branches. The picture shows a mature tree that requires crown cleaning.



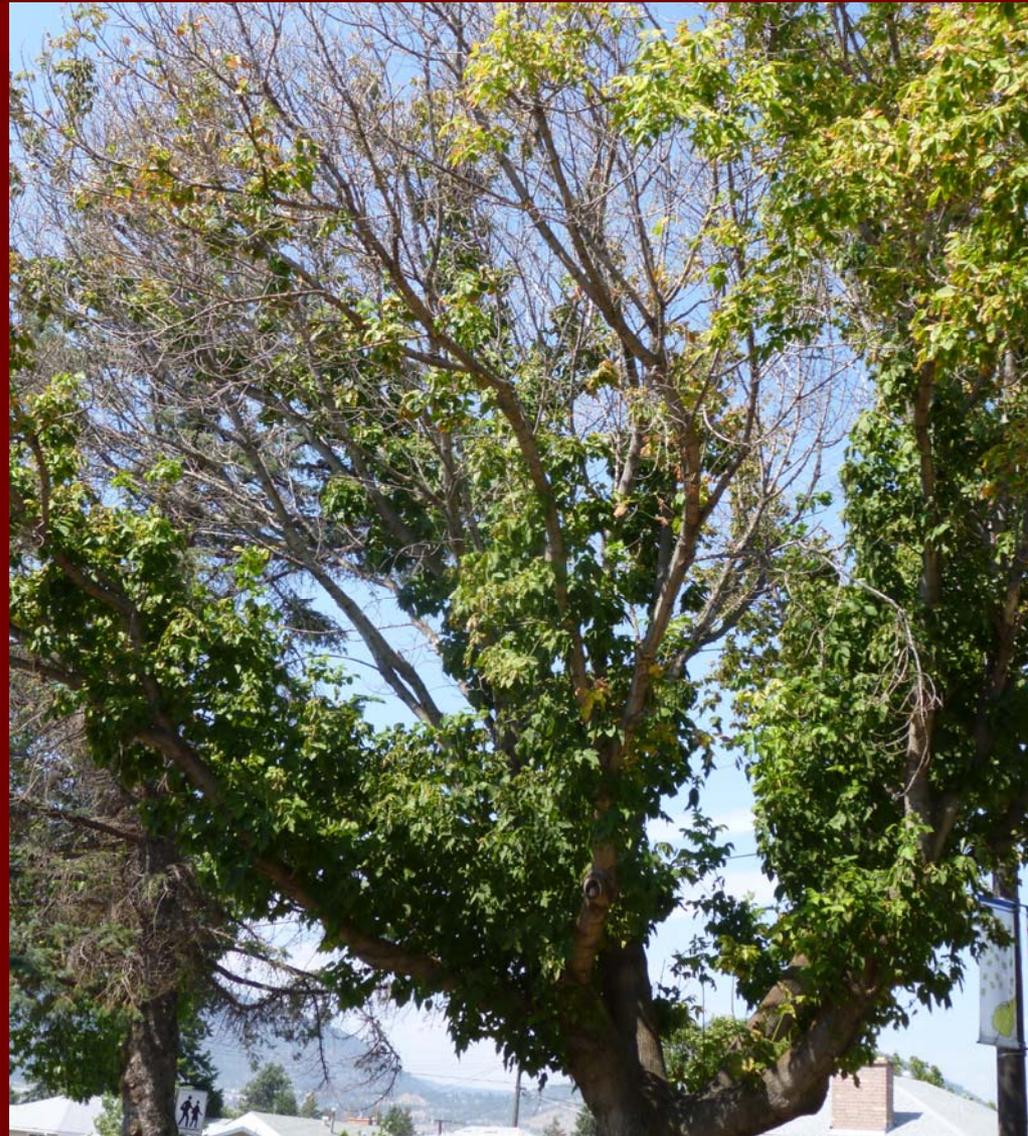
# Crown cleaning

Dead branches are more likely to fall and damage buildings under the trees. It is important to remove these dead branches in a timely fashion.



# Crown cleaning

Instructions are given to cut branches down to either 2.5 or 5-cm diameter. The smaller the diameter of the branch, the more cuts have to be made.



# Crown thinning

This is selective pruning to reduce the density of live branches. The picture shows a tree with dense foliage that prevents light penetration.



# Crown thinning

The pictures show a young tree before and after crown thinning. A few branches were removed to open the canopy and form a sound structure.



# Crown thinning

The picture shows a maple tree with powdery mildew disease. Crown thinning would improve air circulation and reduce disease incidence.



# Crown raising

This is selective pruning to provide clearance on the ground. The picture shows a tree after crown raising to allow mowing of the lawn.



# Crown raising

This pruning is used to provide clearance for pathways and foot traffic. The pictures show a tree on a boulevard before and after crown raising.



# Crown raising

This pruning is used to provide clearance for parking and car traffic. The picture shows a tree that requires crown raising to prevent breakage.



# Crown reduction

This is selective pruning to decrease height or spread. The picture shows a tree where all large branches were reduced.



# Crown reduction

This pruning is used to remove branches growing into utility wires. This work can be hazardous and is best done by trained professionals.

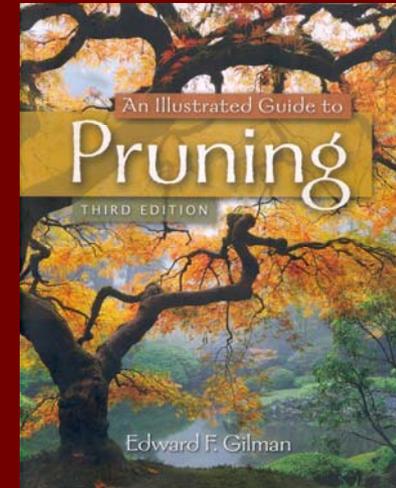
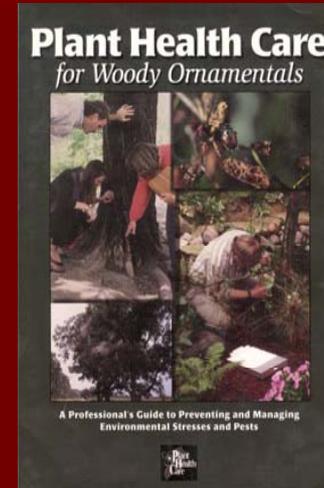
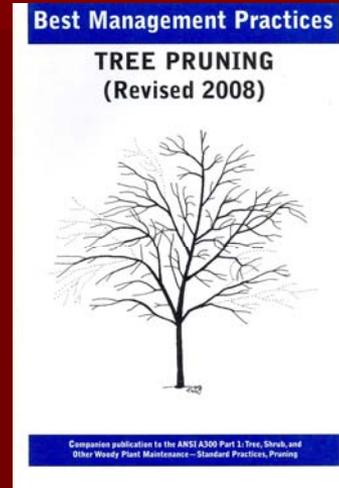


# Crown reduction

Topping is a form of crown reduction where all branches are severely reduced. Not all tree species can tolerate this pruning and the cuts may start to decay.



For more details, consult these publications



American National Standard (ANSI)  
(Tree Care Industry Association)  
<https://tcia.org/>

Available from ISA  
(International Society of Arboriculture)  
<http://secure.isa-arbor.com/webstore/>

More information available at the University of Florida, IFAS <http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/>

All text and pictures from CropHealth Advising & Research, Kelowna, B.C., [www.crophealth.com](http://www.crophealth.com)