



Pruning Your Young Tree

Keeping your tree in good shape is key

- Prune back dead, broken, or crossing branches and root suckers growing up from the base of the tree anytime. Root suckers are often a sign of tree stress. Consult your local nursery or find a certified arborist at www.treesaregood.org to determine the cause of root suckers.
- Leave lower branches on young trees during the first two years to encourage tree growth and prevent the sun from scalding the trunk.
- Begin shaping your tree two years after planting. Pruning is best done during the winter months. Do not remove more than 25% of the tree's live branches at any one time.
- As your young tree matures, maintain the central leader (main vertical stem). Thin out narrowly spaced branches. This allows good tree structure and promotes healthy growth. Visit www.arborday.org for a complete pruning guide.





These tips will help you care for your trees in their first three years of life. For more information, visit www.sactree.com or call (916) 924-TREE (8733).

