



# Winter

**The season to prune your tree**

**DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY**

- Pruning is best done during the winter months. Begin shaping your tree two years after planting. 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](http://www.arborday.org) for a complete pruning guide.
- Remove weeds and add mulch. Make sure the mulch is 4 feet in diameter around your tree, 4 inches away from the trunk, and 6 inches deep.
- Check the stakes and ties. If your tree can stand on its own, remove them. If they are still needed, be sure the stakes are firmly in the ground and placed away from the trunk. Make sure the ties are wrapped loosely around the tree and tied firmly to the stake to allow the tree to move.
- Do not let water pool around the base of the tree. If needed, dig a trench to drain water away from the trunk.





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

