

Pruning for a healthy Bee garden, maximum flower & fruit/berry production

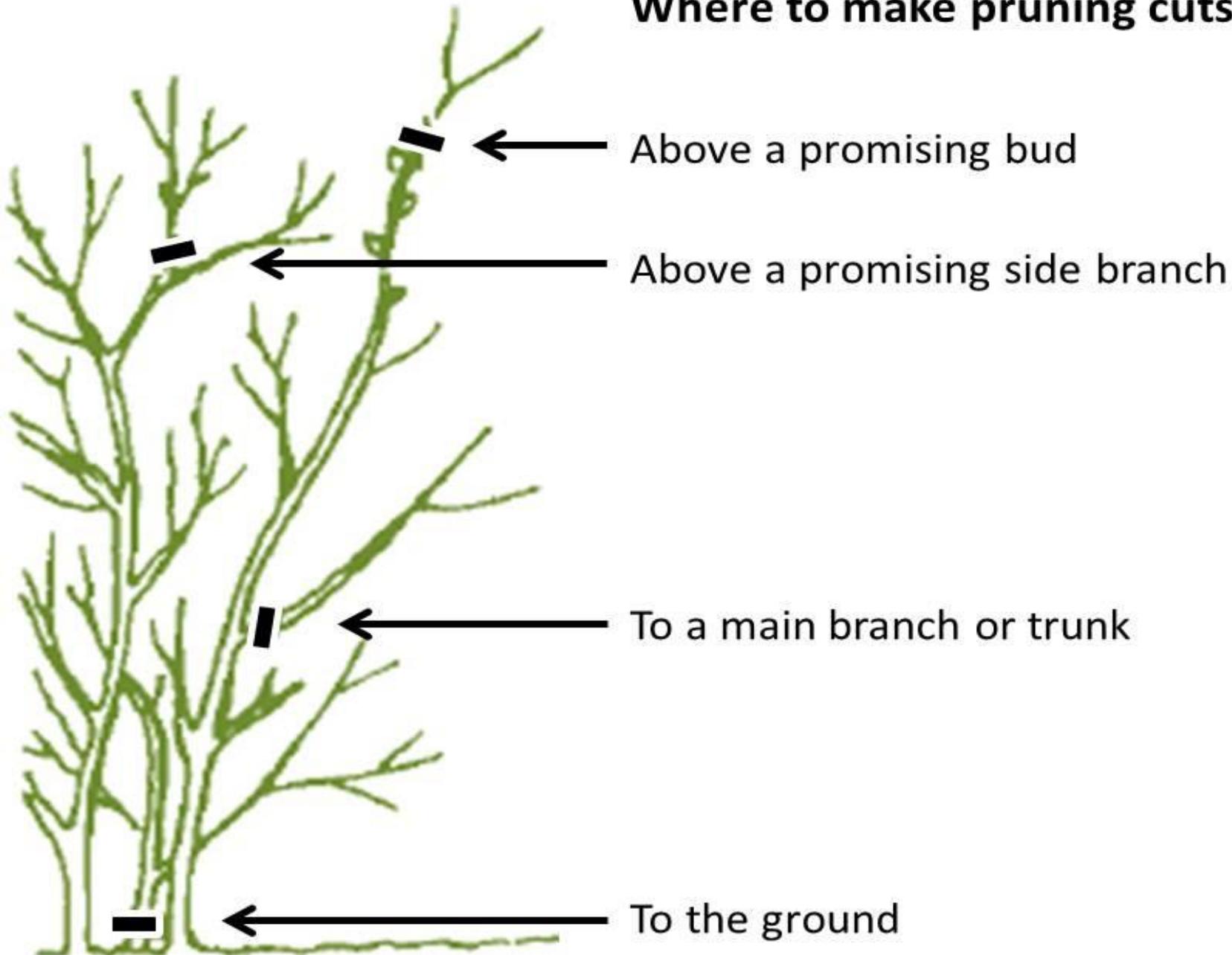
Winfridus (Win) Bakker
32 slides



Use leather gloves and safety glasses when doing pruning.



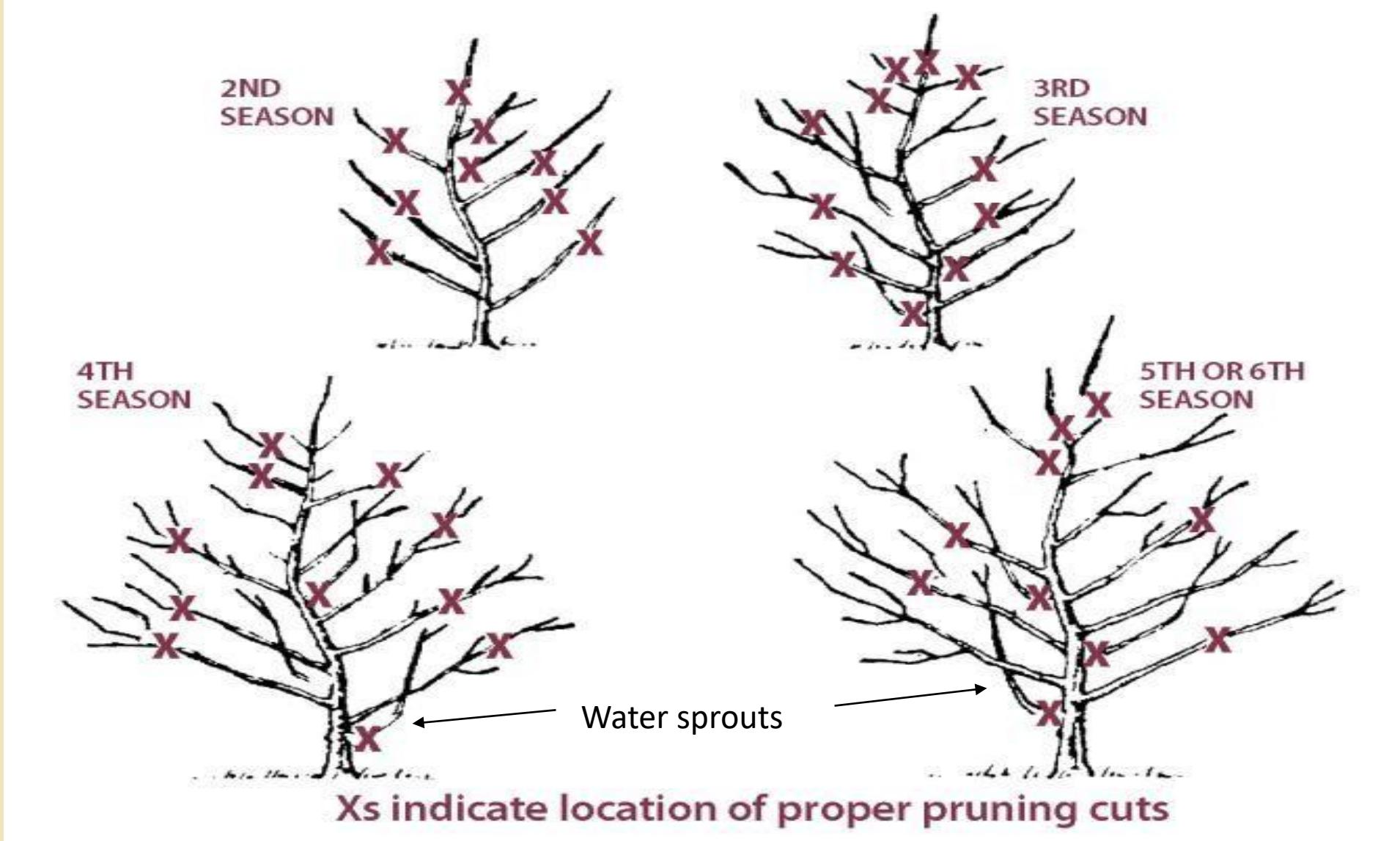
Where to make pruning cuts:

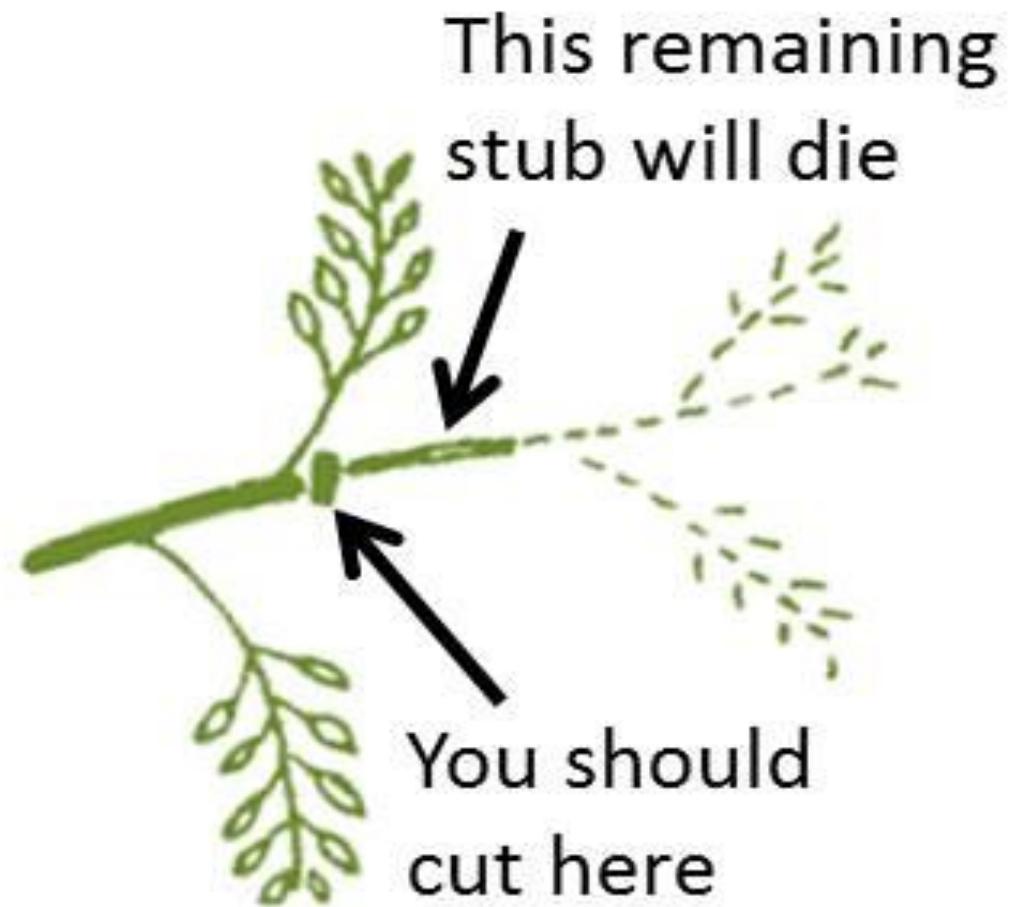
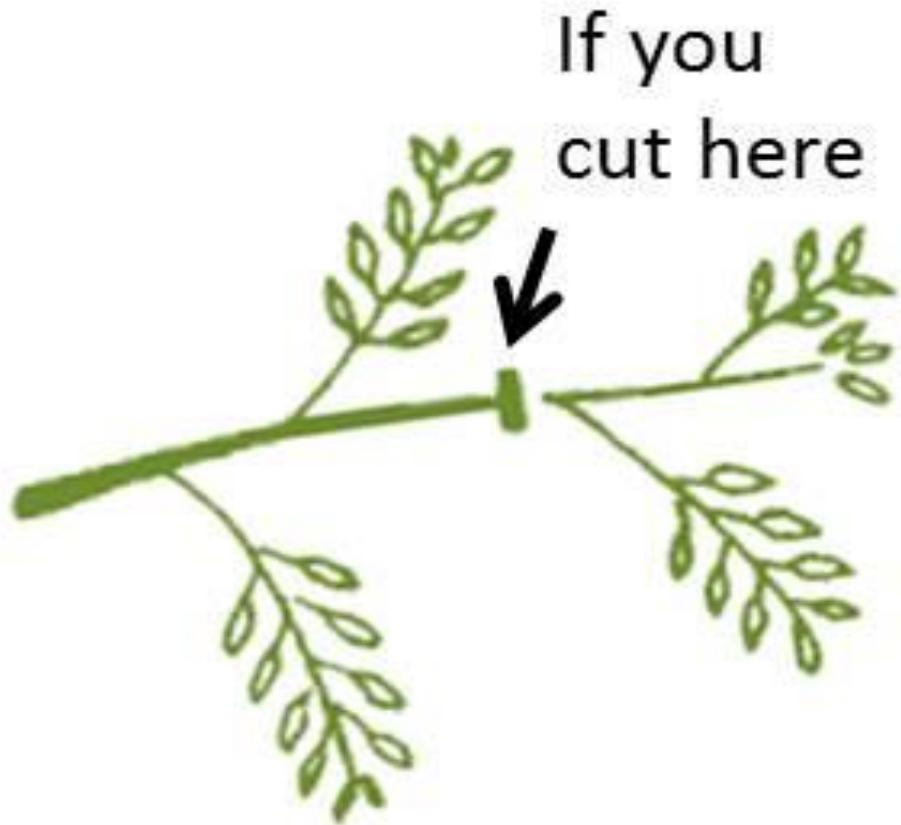


What to prune

- ❑ Dead and low end branches.
- ❑ Branches that are growing inwards.
- ❑ Suckers: Unwanted shoots growing from roots.
- ❑ Water sprouts: Shoots growing straight upward.
- ❑ Branches with very narrow angles.
- ❑ Special pruning based on plant requirements.



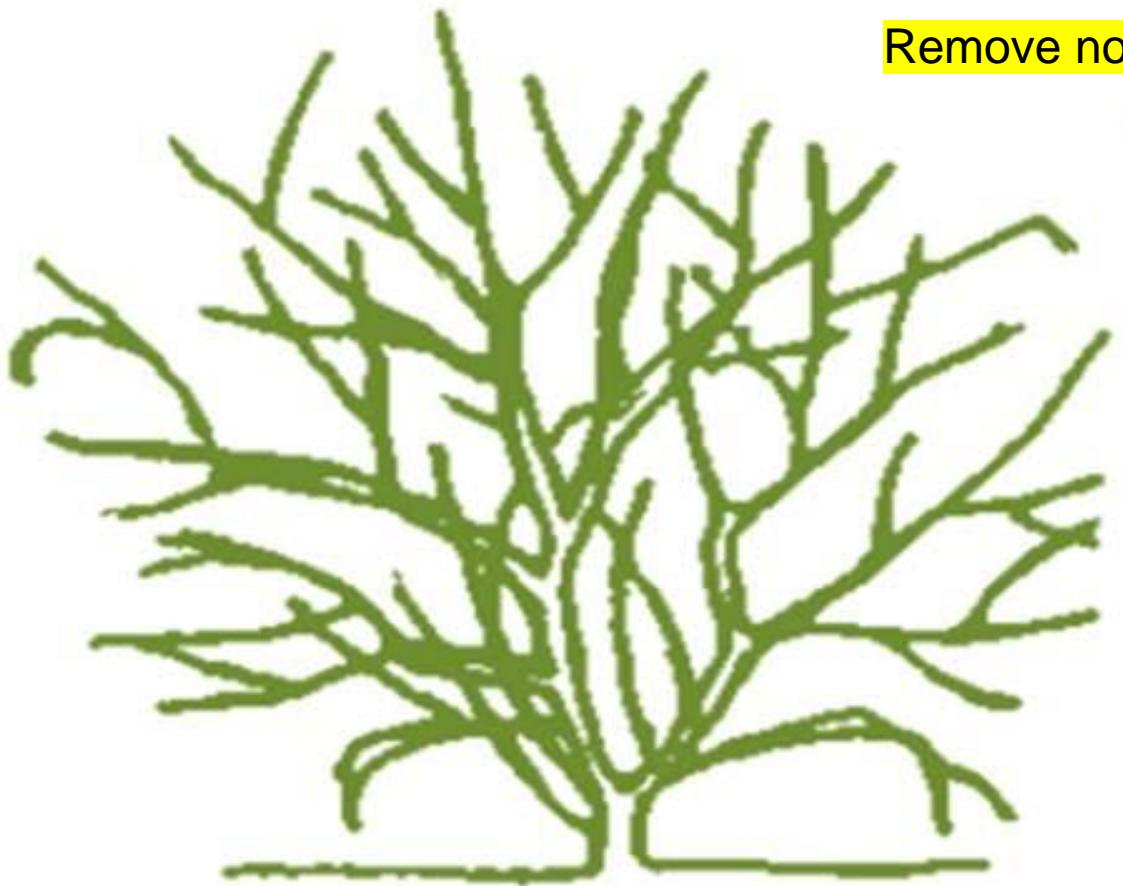




<https://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/QRLLabels/Pruning.html>



Remove no more than 30% of the plant during pruning.



Before pruning

<https://www.uky.edu/Ag/Horticulture/QRLLabels/Pruning.html>



**A well-shaped plant
after pruning**



Different plants discussed

- Elderberries,
- Gooseberries,
- Raspberries,
- Blackberries, **Pear,**
- Gojiberries,
- Blueberries,
- Red Currant.
- Apple,
- Peach,
- Vitex,
- Hazelnut.



Gooseberries:

1. Prune once in early March when they start sprouting,
2. Take all branches out that start crossing with other branches,
3. Prune top 1/3 of last year's growth,
4. Prune branches that tend to grow inwards (you want air and light to get into the center),
5. Take out central branches that congest the bush,
6. Prune the branches with a 45° angle cut,
7. Gooseberries fruit on 2-year-old wood,
8. Branches 5 years old should be removed, like also thin & weak branches.



Red Currant:

1. Redcurrants should be pruned **twice** a year, in summer and winter, to maintain a good shape and produce the best possible crop.
2. Redcurrants bear their fruit on old shoots and at the base of new ones, just like gooseberries, and are pruned in the same way.
3. Fruits on **2d year branches**,
4. Prune low hanging branches to bring the plant up.



1-Blackberries:

1. Very important to prune correctly with this plant,
2. Blackberries need to be pruned **twice** a year,
3. 1st year branches are called primocanes,
4. **2d year canes** produce berries and are called floricanes but there is a catch:
5. Primocanes need to be cutback to 7 f (2 m) long branches ***in middle of the summer.***
6. They need to start producing side branches (6-7) that will have the flowers the next year when they become floricanes.
7. Short primocanes cut them back a bit at the top.









2-Blackberries:

1. Pruning in early spring when Blackberries start to sprout.
2. Cut all the canes that are older than 2 years or have been floricanes from last summer.
3. Per plant leave only 5 to 6 primocanes.
4. Side branches of the primocanes cut 1/3 from the top.



Raspberries:

Early raspberries:

- A. Summer or early raspberries: create berries on the branches of 2d year.
- B. Do not prune them at all.

Autumn/late (everbearing) raspberries:

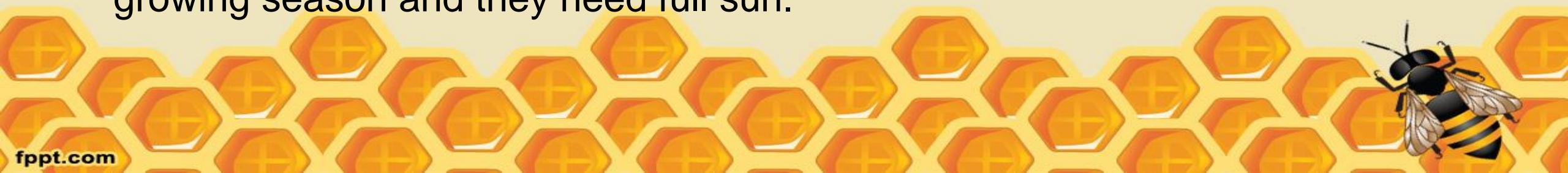
1. They create berries on the branches created earlier in the season (primocanes). Can be pruned back to the ground or to a 1 feet/30 cm height.
2. New canes will emerge from the ground in the spring.
3. Since the primocanes produce a full crop of fruit, no need to keep floricanes.
4. Raspberries need high levels of potassium to encourage flowering & fruiting.
5. Left unpruned, compete for sunlight and buds on the lower half of plant die. Without those buds, fewer fruiting branches & a much smaller crop.
6. Raspberry plants are shallow-rooted and do not tolerate weeds.





Elderberries:

1. To keep elderberry bushes in shape and to ensure lush flowering and fruiting, **prune back once annually.**
2. **Flowering is happening on side branches and on primocanes.**
3. Begin annual pruning of elderberry the 2d or 3d year after planting.
4. It is recommended to wait until after the first frost in autumn to perform the pruning. Cut back ***one-third*** of the oldest stems.
5. Leave around 5 to 9 stems of different sizes (ages).
6. Or, prune back your elderberry bushes between the end of January & end Feb. Pruning is done in early spring by removing two or three of the plant's largest canes to the ground. Repeat this process each year over a three-year period to re-invigorate old plants.
7. Elderberries are shallow-rooted, so keep them well watered through the first growing season and they need full sun.







Vitex agnus castus:

1. Chaste *Trees* do not require *pruning*, however respond very well to it.
2. *Prune* Chaste *Trees* to control size or shape.
3. Prune in late winter by cleaning out the entire center of the tree,
4. Remove all side branches from the main four to five trunks.
5. Remove messy, twiggy growth at ends of the branches.
6. Another option, cut the entire plant to the ground in winter (emergency option).
7. Cut branches to a desired length or to a point where they intersect another branch.
8. If you are just shortening a branch, cut just above a twig or bud,
9. Vitex blooms on new growth, so it flowers reliably every year,
10. Life span is 15 to 20 years,
11. Chaste tree is not particularly susceptible to pests or diseases,

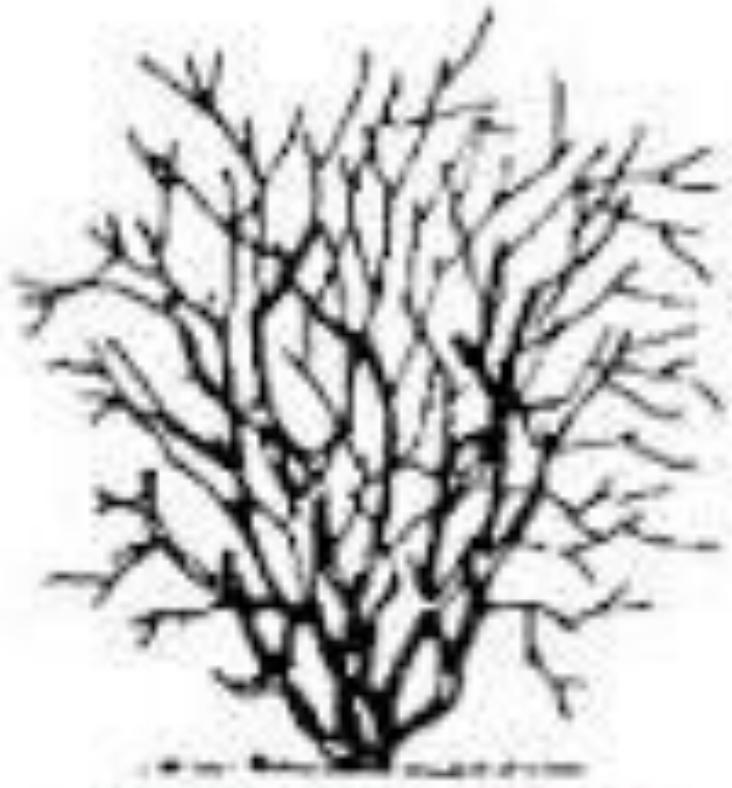


Blue berries:

1. Blueberries should be pruned once during the winter while the bushes are dormant. In late winter, flower buds are easily visible on one-year-old wood.
2. Flower bud numbers can be adjusted by pruning to regulate crop load for coming year.
3. Blueberries do not need to be pruned in the first 2 years.
4. Blueberries grow on old wood, with the best fruits growing on twigs that are around two years old. Their fruiting buds are located in the outermost 2-3 inches of stem growth.
5. Find the best balance of leaving a mix of old and new growth, removing the parts of the plant that are overcrowded, dead, diseased or wrongly directed.
6. Have the Right Soil pH. Blueberries demand strong acidic soil conditions (pH 4.0-5.6). Pine needles around the bushes will help to maintain low pH & give mulch to soil.



Blue berry plant before and after pruning



Goji berries or Wolf berries:

1. Do not prune the 1st few years,
2. Fruit will develop on lateral growth stems,
3. Pruned lateral growth stems need to maintain 6 to 8 buds.
4. When pruning is in order eliminate enough stems to stay with around 6 of them,
5. Open the plant in the center for aeration & sunlight to get in.
6. Cut 8" (20 cm) of the tip of the stems.
7. These pruned sticks can be used to propagate the plant.
8. Pruning can be done twice & the best time to prune your goji is spring.
9. Wait until the buds begin to break, easier to see where any stems have died.
10. By early summer, pinch off the top 2 to 3 inches (5-7 cm) of terminal growth.
11. Best results by training it against a wall, fence, trellis or obelisk.



1-Pear & Apple trees

1. Pruning can be done **twice** a year.
2. Prune pear & apple trees in early spring.
3. Buds are easier to see and cuts will also heal quicker.
4. Fall pruning with new growth will be damaged by a cold winter.
5. Reduce the length of main branches by about **a third**.
6. Cut them back to a good, outward-facing bud.
7. Make a slanted cut downwards.
8. Water-sprout removal should occur close to the trunk or branch from which they are growing. Do not leave much of a stub.

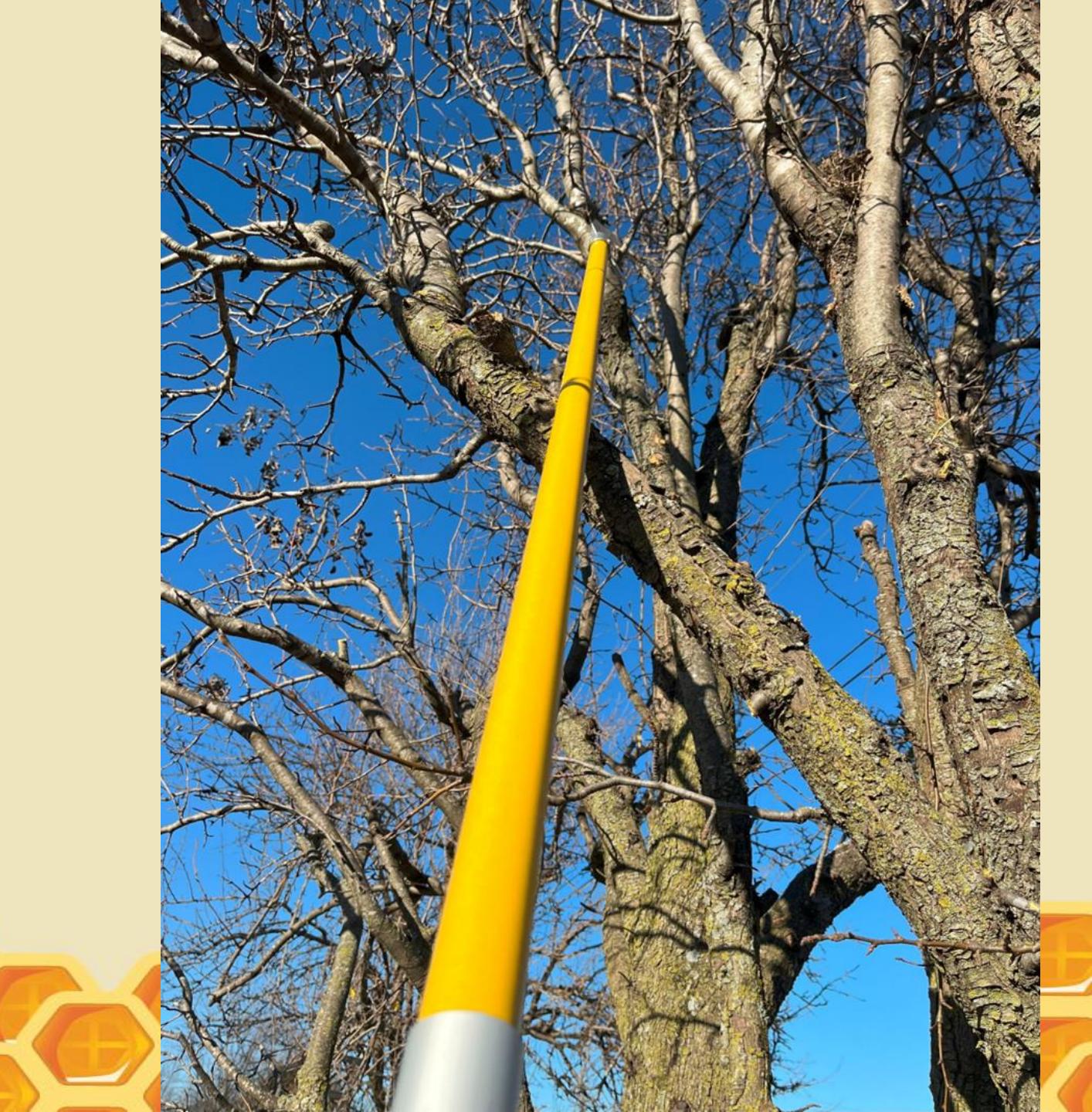
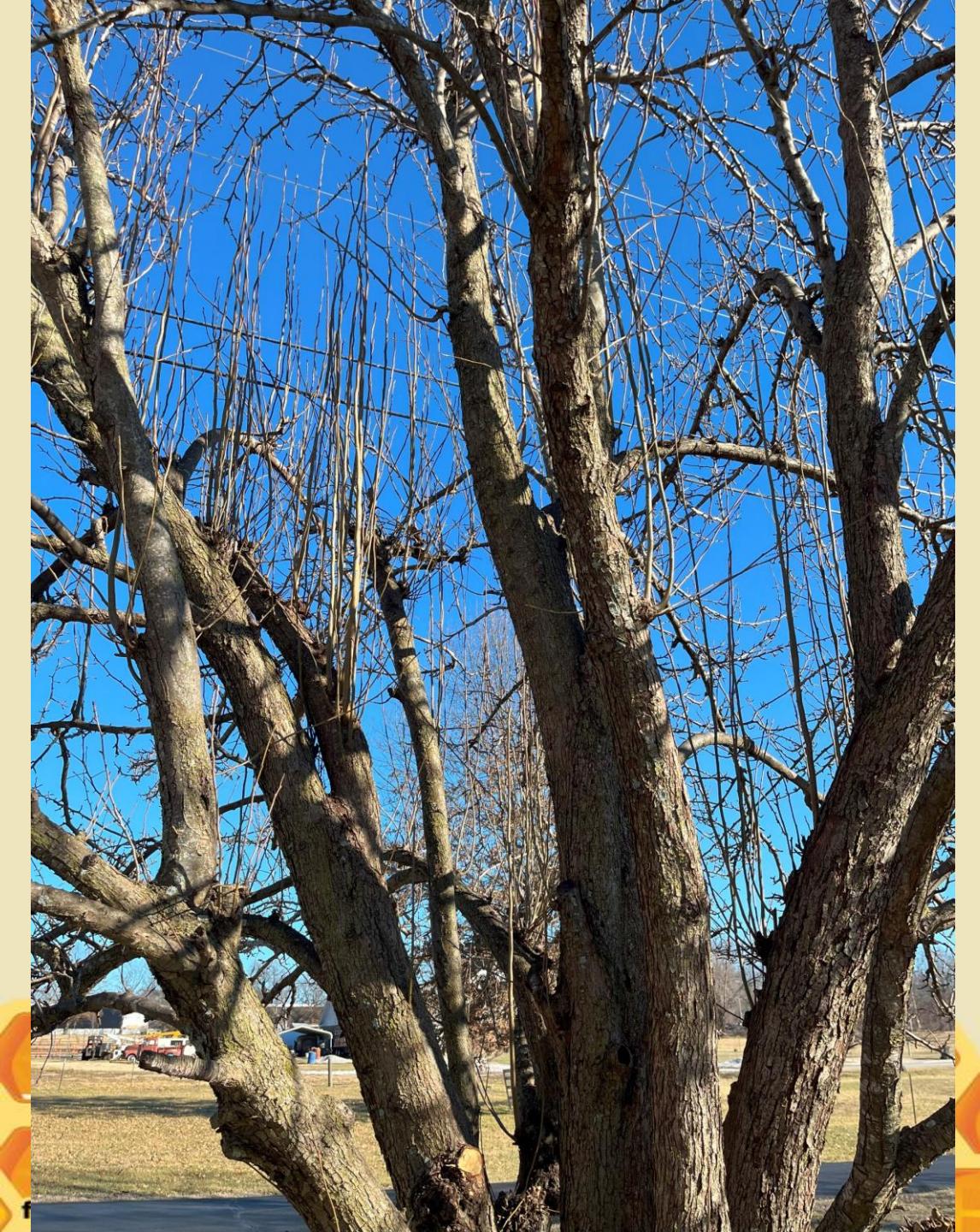


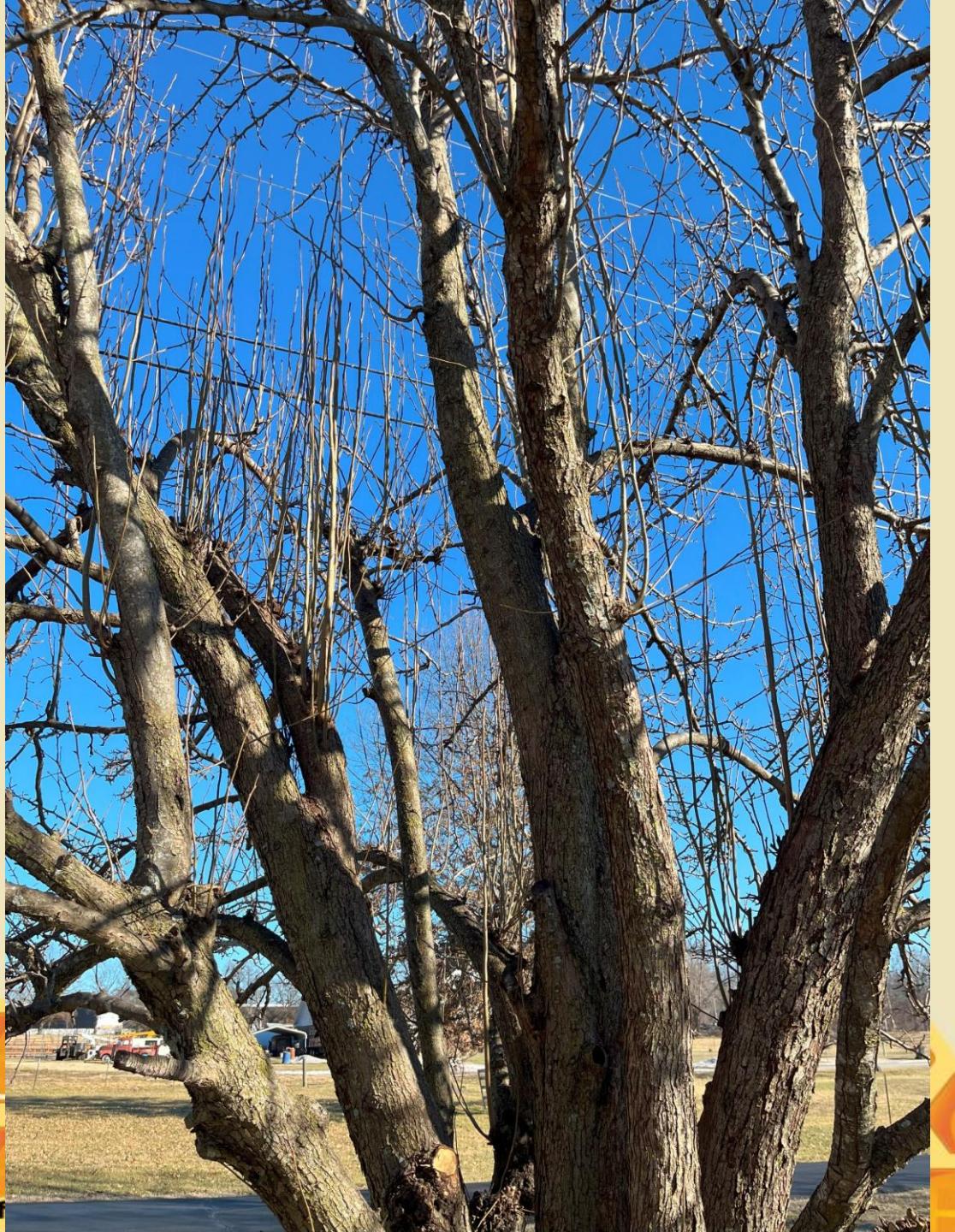


2-Pear & Apple trees

1. Water sprouts need to be pruned away ASAP.
2. Leave water sprouts that you want to develop outwards.
3. Cut them back in August to around 5 buds.
4. Over pruning will cause excessive water sprouts.
5. The flower/fruit buds in apples and pears can be terminal on long shoots (greater than 4 inches) but...
6. More commonly on short shoots called spurs.
A spur is a short shoot (4 inches or less) that only grows a very small amount each year.







Peach trees:

1. Need to have an open center to reduce disease challenges.
2. Shoots growing towards the inside or from the inside up should be removed.
3. Remove diseased branches anytime you see them during the year.
4. One year old growth will bear the flowers and fruits.
5. These branches are normally colored as red wood.
6. Develop a tree that has 4 to 5 strong branches to grow at 45° angles towards the outside guaranteeing an open center.
7. Can cut 1/3 of the tips of one year old branches leaving 6 to 8 buds.



Hazelnut

1. Hazelnuts can be pruned in the winter, spring, or summer. Pruning during the dormant season will generate the most vigorous growth the following spring.
2. American Hazelnut is drought tolerant once established.
3. Remove 25% or less of fruiting wood (wood with catkins). See picture annexed.
4. Remove the largest, heaviest canes all the way to the ground.



Conclusions

- Pruning is essential in most berry plants/bushes and fruit trees.
- It will enhance blooming & keeps them healthy.
- More fruit production for our own food supply.
- Determine how many times / year pruning needs to be done and how to prune.
- Always decongest your plants in the middle and let branches move outwards.
- Use mulch and fertilizers to enhance growth, flowering & resilience.

