



CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

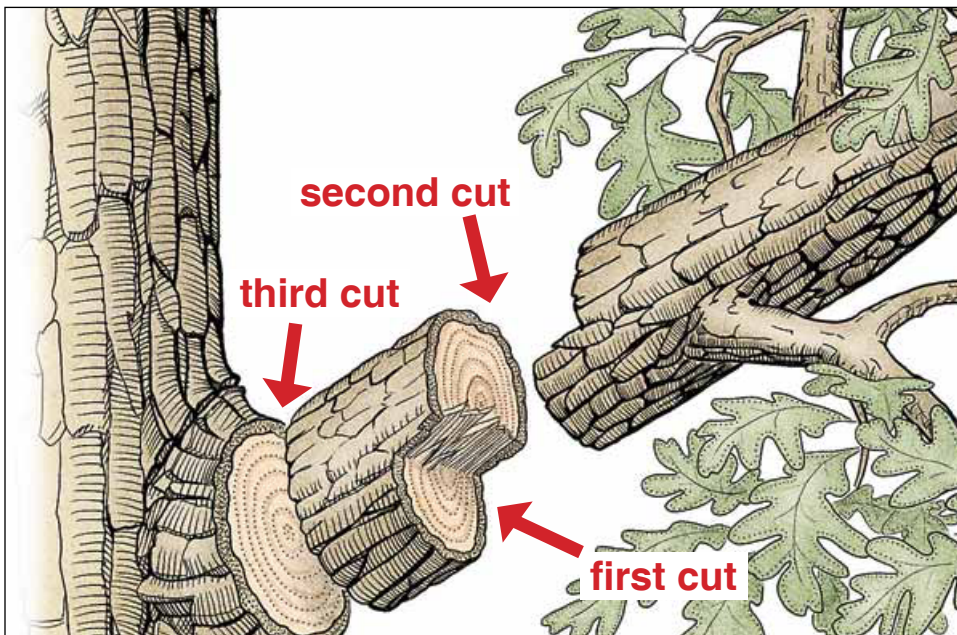
Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

I love to prune!

As an ISA Certified Arborist, I'm always getting asked "What's the best time to prune?" The glib, smarty pants but true answer is, whenever you have the time! As a general rule, however, the best time to prune flowering trees and shrubs is after they're done flowering. This way the plants have a chance to set buds for the following year, so you don't mess up the flowering cycle.

One of the most important things to remember is to use sharp and clean tools. Use bypass pruners like those from Felco and A. M. Leonard. Never use "anvil" pruners where the blade hits a dead end. In pruning trees, you want to prune right next to the branch collar, the swelling where the branch is attached to the trunk or larger stem. Do not cut into the branch collar! The collar is where the cut will begin to heal over.

My guru is Ed Gilman from the University of Florida. He has a fantastic web site, <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.shtml>. Dr. Gilman is a must-see speaker if you ever get the chance. He spoke this last January in Grand Rapids at the Great Lakes Trade Expo and no one there left without learning something new.



I like to prune larger branches using the "three cut method". Please look at the above illustration. Using this method, you avoid having the bark tear past your pruning cut, and damaging the tree.



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Drawing source: <http://www.familyhandyman.com/DIY-Projects/Outdoor-Projects/Yard/Landscaping/tree-pruning-techniques/>