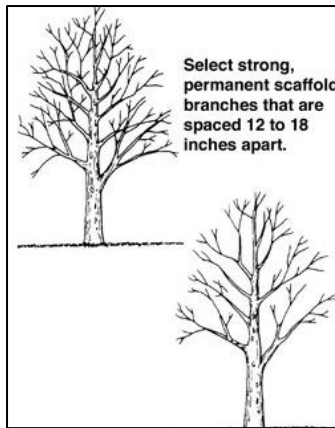




KNOWING IS ½ THE BATTLE: WHY PRUNE YOUNG TREES?

Most trees have evolved while growing in forest stands. Natural forest light competition allows trees to grow single dominate leaders with well spaced lateral branches. When young trees are planted in the open (i.e. front/ back yard, along the street, etc.) they are exposed to light on all sides.

Without natural shade induced limb attrition trees may form co-dominate stems and closely spaced lateral branches with narrow branch unions and included bark. This has long-term consequences for the tree. Large branches growing close together or that originate from the same point of trunk attachment, compete for resources and are more likely to fail as the tree grows to maturity. Corrective pruning of large branches on mature trees creates large wounds that are difficult to callus over.



Structure pruning young trees is often overlooked, but may be one of the best things you can do. Qualified arborists are able ‘train’ young trees by identifying limbs that may cause future problems, and limbs that should be retained for proper tree structure. Young tree pruning is a process that should be revisited every 3 to 5 years until the tree is large enough that permanent scaffold branches are established.

