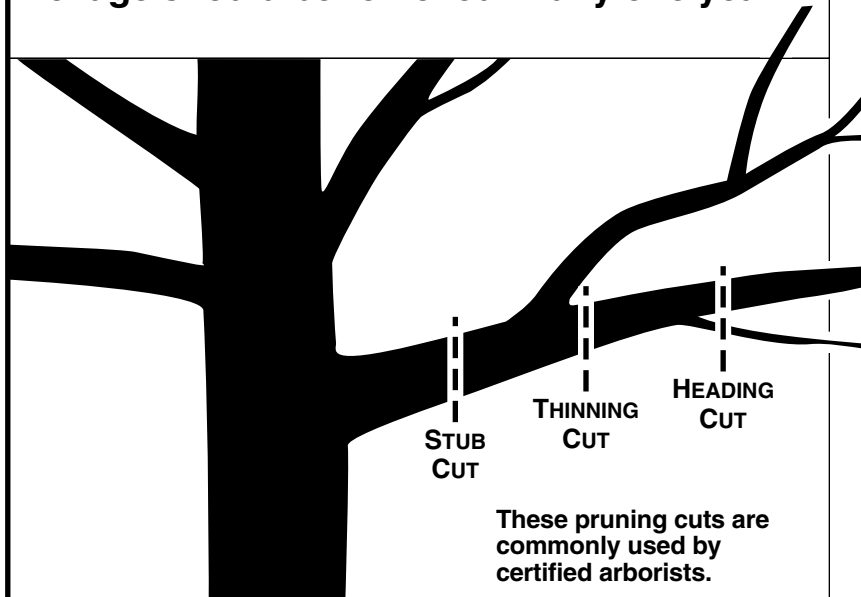


Graphics / Illustration: Tom Laird, College of Agricultural Sciences. © Penn State 2000

No more than 30 percent of a mature tree's foliage should be removed in any one year.



These pruning cuts are commonly used by certified arborists.

THINNING CUT

This cut is used to shorten a large limb back to a side branch large enough to resume growth of the pruned limb.

The use of thinning cuts is the correct choice to maintain trees.

STUB CUT

The limb is cut indiscriminately where no bud or side limb exists.

A stub cut is highly destructive to the tree and should be used only when removing the tree.

HEADING CUT

The result of trimming a limb back to a bud or a very small branch that can't support the growth of the pruned limb is called "heading."

Heading shouldn't be used unless the tree is being removed.

Additional graphics and information available on the Internet at aginfo.psu.edu/psp

For Spring/Fall Time Frame