

# Tree Pruning

- Pruning is the most common tree maintenance practice.
- In urban landscapes, tree pruning is needed to improve overall structure, to enhance vitality, and to maintain safety and aesthetics.
- To optimize a tree's health and structure through pruning, there must be an understanding of tree biology.
- Pruning cuts must be made with an understanding of how the tree will respond.
- Improper pruning is harmful and can cause damage that will remain with a tree for its entire life.



## Reasons for Pruning

Since each pruning cut has the potential to alter a tree's structure or health, each cut must have a purpose.

Most pruning cuts are made for "people reasons" and can be thought of as either *preventive* or *corrective*.

- To improve structure
- To remove hazardous branches
- Clearance from buildings or wires
- Crown raising
- Remove dead or diseased limbs
- Vista pruning (improving a view)
- Increase flowering/fruiting

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5505 N Hwy 169, Plymouth MN 55442

Phone: 763-253-8733 • Fax: 763-253-2273

info@topnotchtree.com • www.topnotchtree.com