

## Fruiting habit - APPLE

- Apple fruits on two year old and older wood
- Flower buds develop on spurs (short shoots) on two year old and older wood
- Best fruit occurs on 2-, 3-, 4-year old wood
- Buds/spurs weaken as they get older
- Shade is your enemy
- Horizontal wood preferred over vertical wood

## APPLE – fruiting habit



## APPLE pruning – goals

- Create a balance between fruiting wood and new shoot growth (which will become fruiting wood)
- Remove old wood, stimulate new growth
- Create an even light environment (as possible) throughout tree
- Open up tree for spraying, etc.
- Create a structure to support crop load

## APPLE pruning – basics

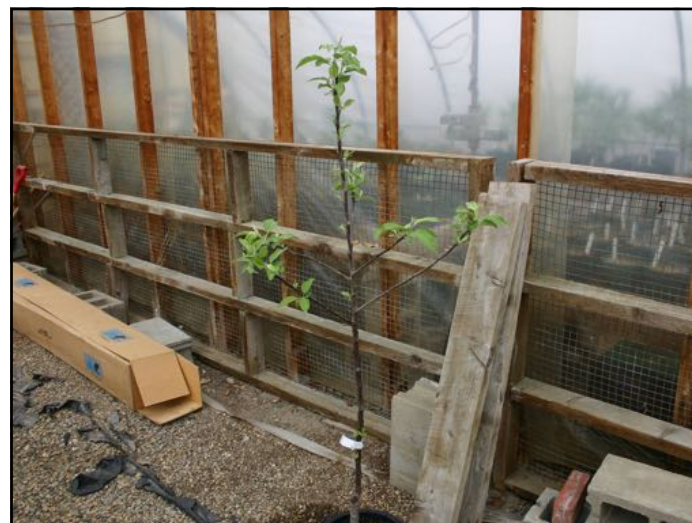
- Central leader tree
- Cone shape tree
- Dormant pruning (January-April) more invigorating than summer pruning (July)
- Heading cuts increase vigorous response at location of cut
- Thinning cuts are more desirable because they create balance between new and older wood
- !!!Thinning cuts are almost always preferable to heading cuts!!!

### APPLE – central leader

Note:

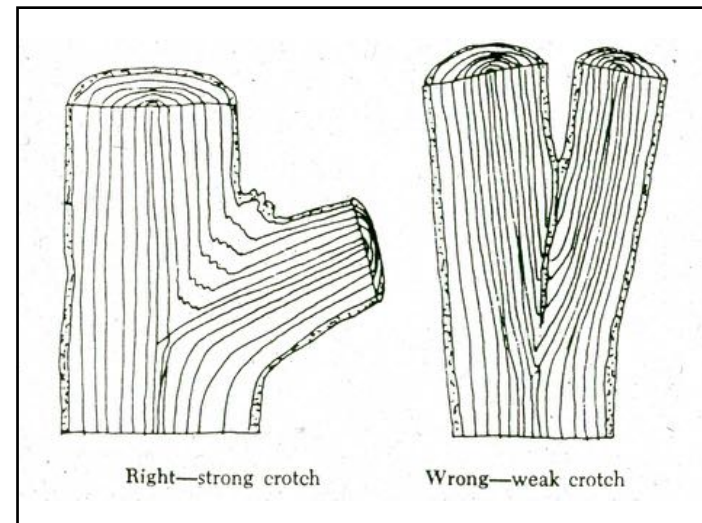
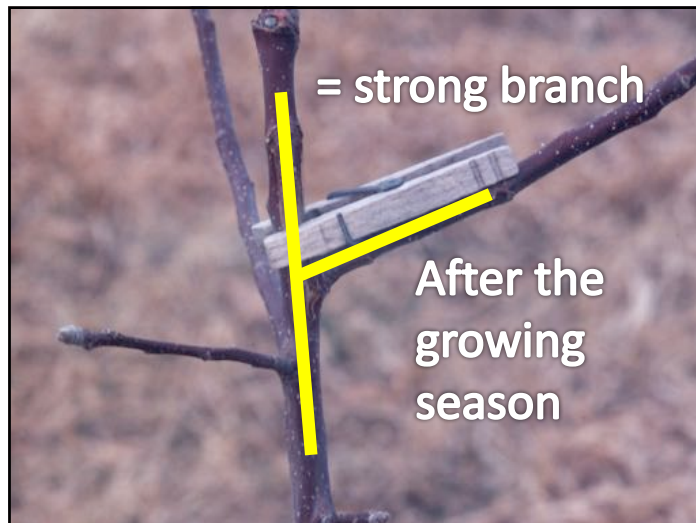
- Dominant central leader (trunk)
- Branches get smaller as you move up the tree (cone or Christmas tree shape)
- Permanent "scaffold" branches at bottom
- Smaller, shorter branches as you move up the tree, may be permanent or temporary











## Young Apple Trees

- Almost no pruning is required
- Maintain dominance of central trunk
  - Remove direct competitors
  - Apply 2-to-1 Rule
- Remove bad crotch angles
- Timing:
  - Spring through early summer

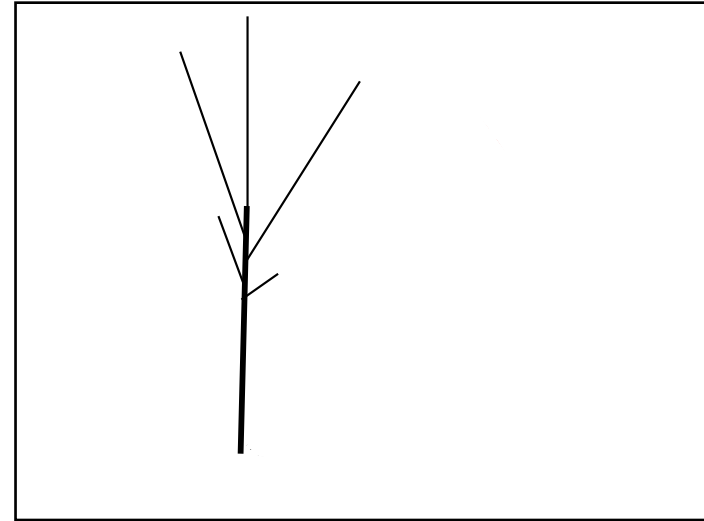




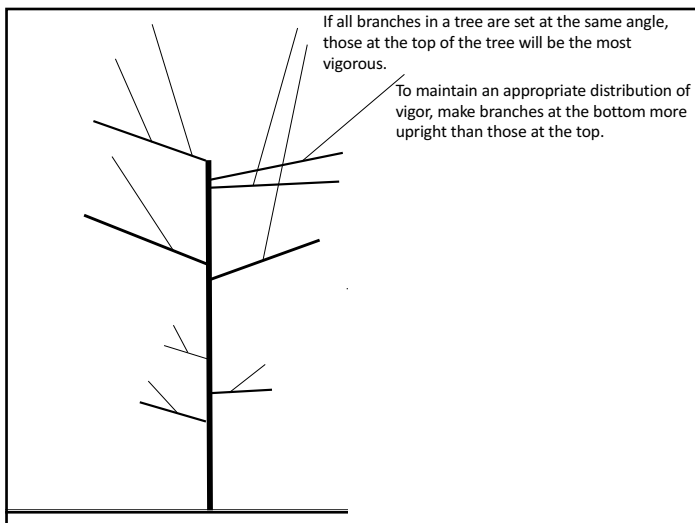
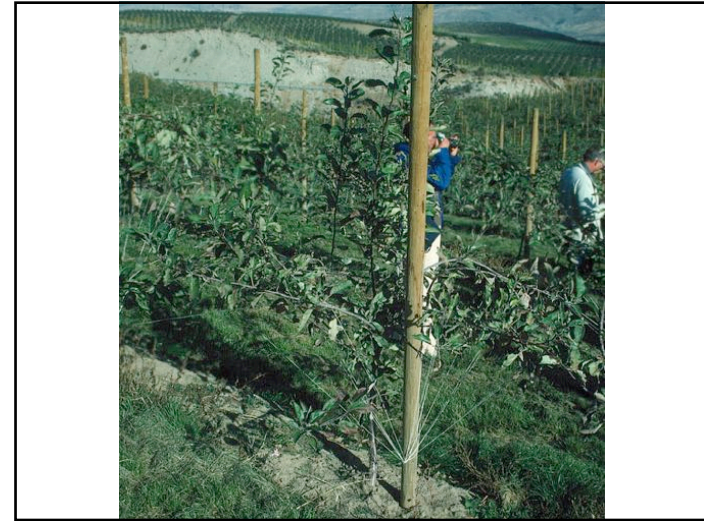












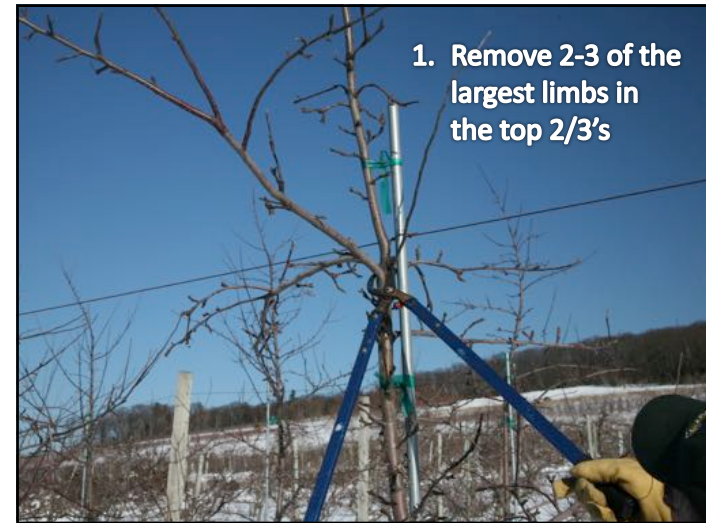


## Seven Simple Rules for Apple Pruning

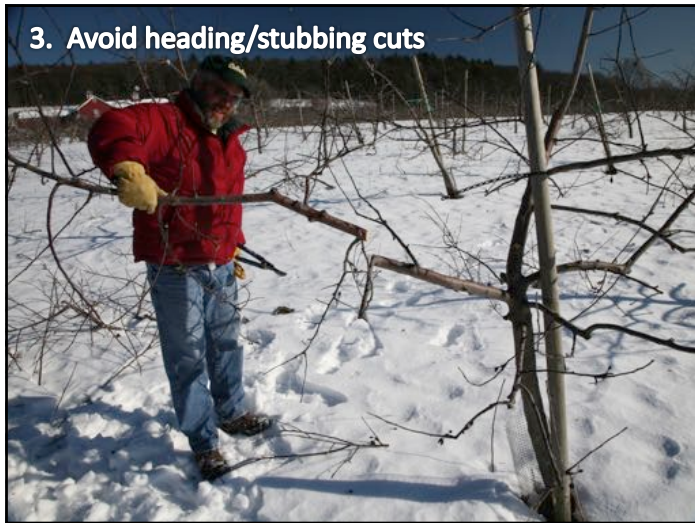
Optimal timing: February-May

1. Remove 2-3 of the largest limbs in the top 2/3's
2. Use the 2-to-1 rule
3. Avoid stubbing (or heading) cuts
4. Simplify branches
5. Remove drooping branches
6. Remove branches growing straight up
7. Maintain central leader

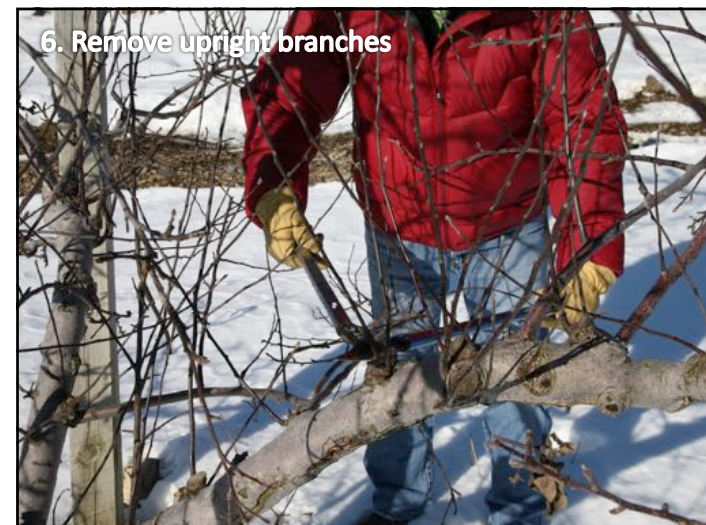
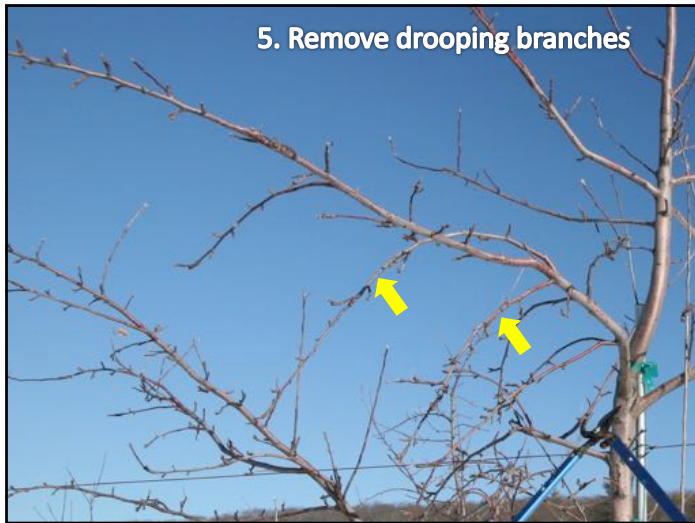


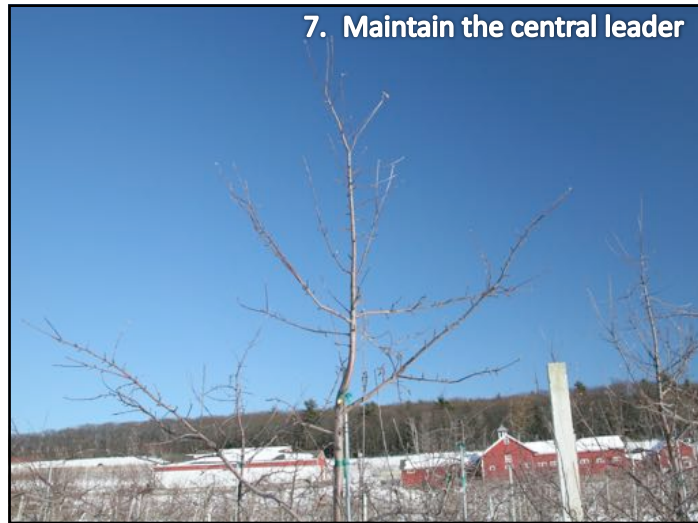














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