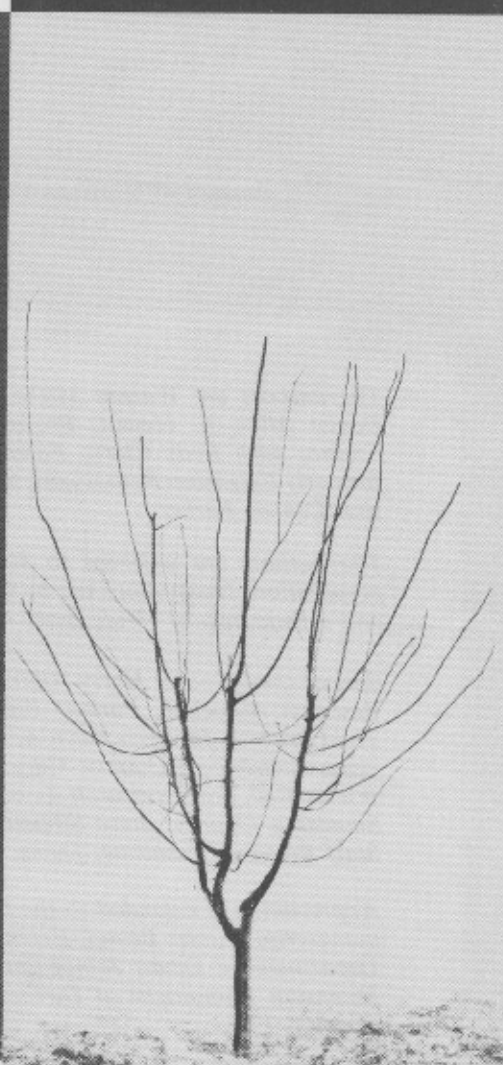
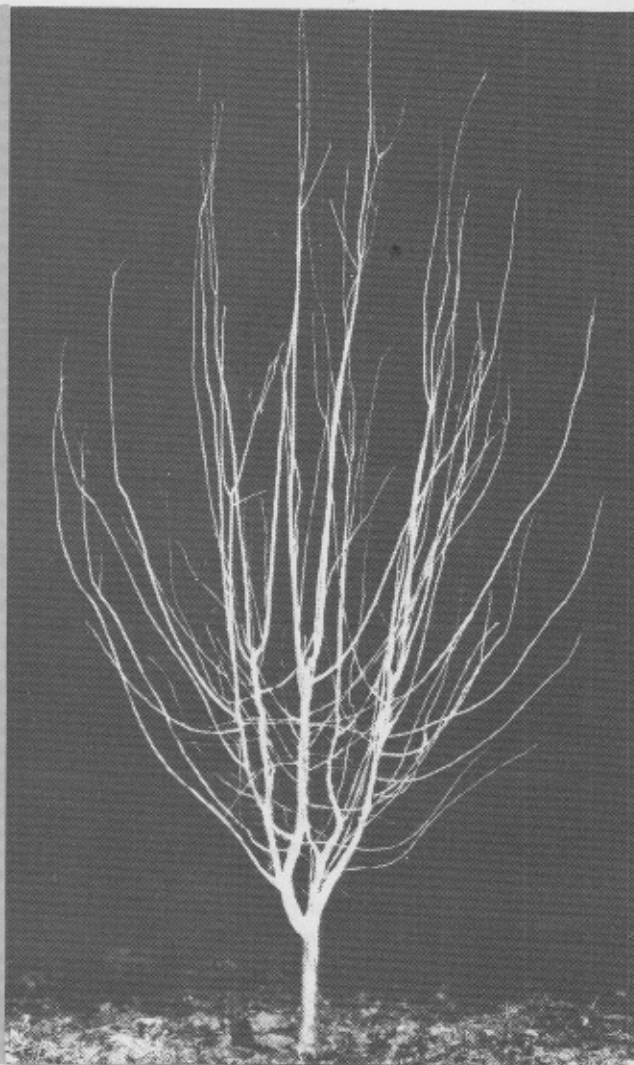


# Pruning Fruit and Nut Trees



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A glossary of terms used in this publication can be found on page 46.

*The authors are Warren Micke, Extension Pomologist, University of California, Davis; Allan A. Hewitt, Professor of Horticulture, California State University, Fresno; Jack Kelly Clark, Extension Photographer, U.C., Davis; Marvin Gerdtz, formerly Extension Pomologist, San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Research and Extension Center, Parlier.*

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## GLOSSARY

**Crotch:** The point at which two branches join.

**Framework:** The major limbs that make up the structure of a tree and support its fruiting branches.

**Head:** That part of trunk from which the primary scaffolds arise.

**Heading back:** Topping or cutting back a branch or limb, but not completely removing it.

**Lateral branch:** A small limb growing from a larger limb. Often used for fruit wood.

**Leader:** A dominant upright branch. The *central leader* is the trunk that extends from the root to the top of a tree.

**Necked bud:** An undesirable lateral bud that is curved upward and a branch arising from it should not be used later as a structural limb (common in walnut and pecan). See Figure 25.

**Primary scaffold limb:** One of the major limbs arising from a tree trunk.

**Rootstock:** The original plant that is now the root system upon which the desired fruiting variety has been budded or grafted.

**Secondary scaffold limb:** A framework limb that arises from a primary scaffold.

**Shoot:** Current season's or 1-year-old growth, with or without leaves.

**Spur:** A short fruiting shoot that usually grows from ½ to 4 inches during a growing season.

**Stub:** A protruding branch left after pruning, often the result of careless pruning. (A branch cut closely and smoothly to a scaffold will not leave a stub.)

**Sucker:** A vigorous shoot that arises below the bud union from the rootstock or roots.

**Tertiary scaffold:** Framework limb that arises from secondary scaffold.

**Thinning out:** Complete removal of branch or limb at its point of origin.

**Topping:** Cutting back the top of a tree to maintain an established height.

**Water sprout:** A vigorous, usually undesirable, shoot arising from the trunk or scaffold limbs.

*Most of the above terms are illustrated in the following figures.*

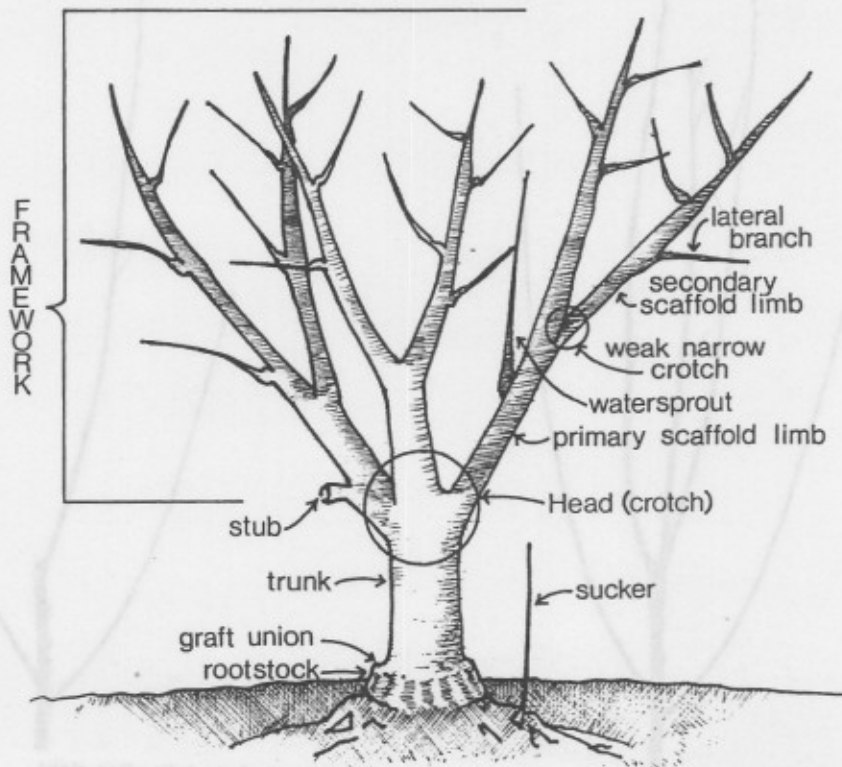


Figure 45. Many terms defined in the glossary are illustrated.

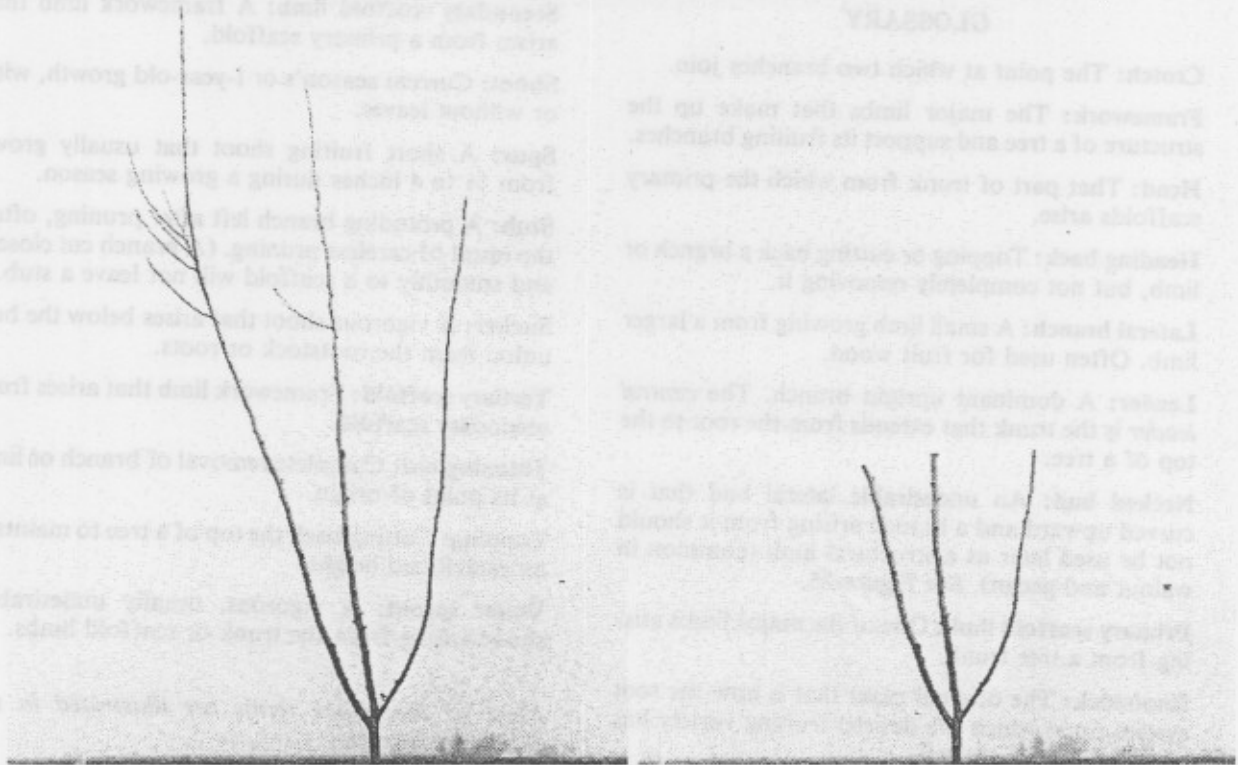


Figure 46. Heading back is shown here: before, left; after, right.

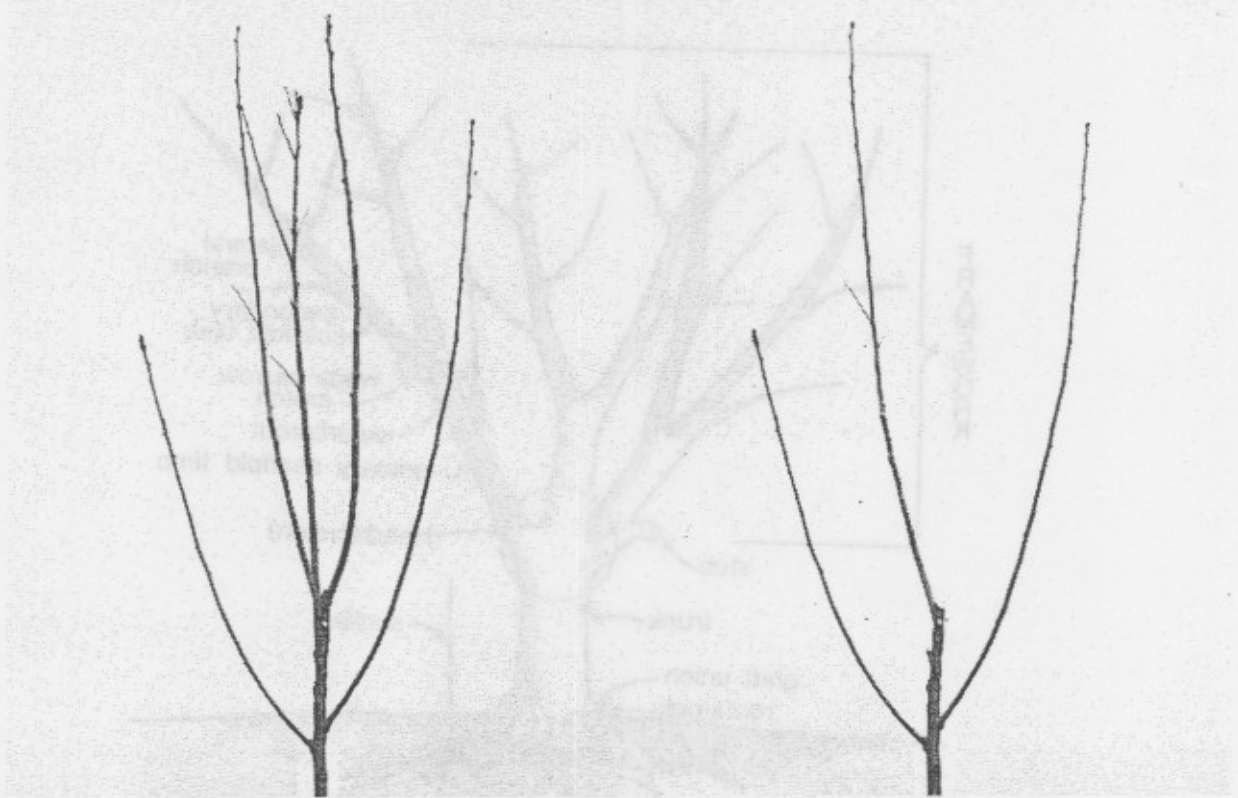


Figure 47. Thinning out is seen here: before, left; after, right.