



## Summer Orchard Care

July 27, 2024

Instructor: Phyllis Lee

### Principals of Summer Orchard Maintenance: *What are the tree's needs?*

- Water: too little, placement, maintenance, ...
- Sanitation: leaf matter, mummies, suckers, to grow grasses under trees or not, ...
- Insects, critters, diseases: holes in the ground or in trees,/bark/leaves and branches, *Pseudomonas syringae* vs fire blight ...
- Prune cherry and apricot trees at this time to decrease the chance of disease.
- Pruning to slow down and redirect extension/laterals or height growth: strengthen branches bearing fruit, induce earlier fruit bud formation closer to the trunk and literally forming fruiting wood earlier.



Figure 1 Fire blight

### Summer pruning is about pruning laterals – keeping a tree dwarf sized

(FYI: Winter pruning – hard pruning causes taller and denser growth)

- Never prune more than 1/3 of the tree
- Limits intermediate and longer growth – resources are tapped out at this time – creating short, stout branches to bear fruit.

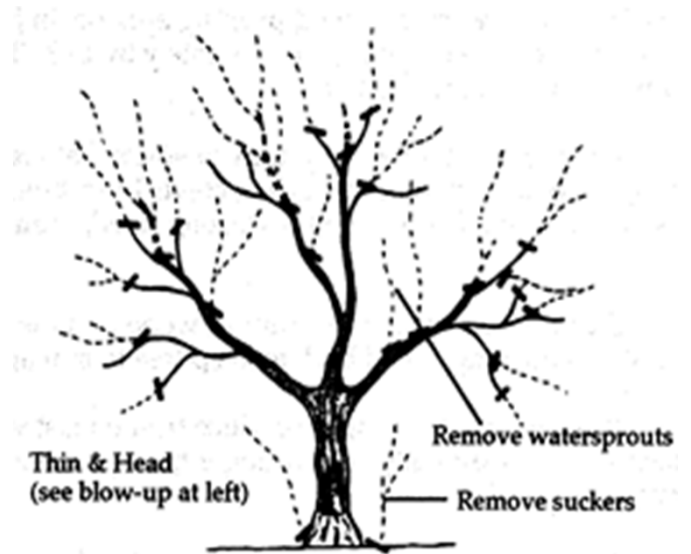


Figure 2 M7 rootstock continuously throws off suckers

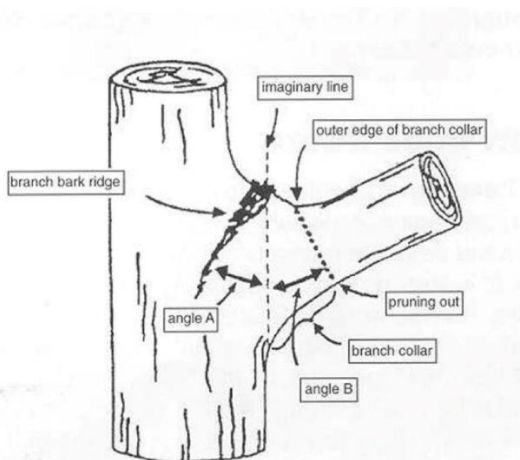


Figure 3 Thinning cut



## Pruning time for our zone

- Mid-August to Early September
- Branches have stopped growing – audible snap to wood being bent
- Cut off suckers, dead or diseased wood at anytime during the spring, summer or fall
- Head cuttings to bring the tree down to dwarf size

## Method for more fruiting wood and closer to the trunk

- leave 2-3 fruiting buds - cut about the fourth node on this year's growth

## Websites

UC IPM: <https://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/fruit.html>

“Fruit Tree Pruning” UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County Jul 24, 2020 video



“Importance of Summer Pruning Apple Tree”: UC Santa Cruz Center for Agroecology video



## Where to Get Help

MG Help Desk: 530-521-5512 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 AM to noon, walk-ins are also welcome at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville.

Sherwood Demonstration Garden Open Days: Friday and Saturday 9 - noon Spring - Fall

Email us at: [mgeldorado@ucanr.edu](mailto:mgeldorado@ucanr.edu)

Fill out the “Ask a Master Gardener” questionnaire by pointing your smart phone camera at the code and clicking the link.



Or go to [https://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC\\_Master\\_Gardeners/](https://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners/)