

A Few Basic Rules for Apple Pruning

- 1) Remove the 2-3 largest limbs in the tree (apple 2-1 rule)
- 2) Use the 2-1 rule also called diameter based pruning. This is removing any scaffold branch or limb that is half the size or larger in diameter as compared to the central leader. A branch of this size chokes out the leader, not allowing the tree to reach optimal fruiting capacity. Use Dutch Cuts to remove these limbs.
- 3) No heading cuts, remove the entire limb instead.
- 4) No complex branches on lateral limbs. If any branch divides, cut off one side.
- 5) Remove downward hanging (pendant) branches.
- 6) Straight down or straight up is removed.
- 7) Leave one central leader as a wick, do not prune (see below)

