

How to Plant a Tree in Clay Soil



1. Bowl Shaped Hole with an extra foot beyond the ball
2. Plant 2 inches above grade
3. Fill in hole with same dirt as removed from hole
4. Water in
5. Cover and mulch
6. Water in 3 days until the mulch floats
7. Water as needed



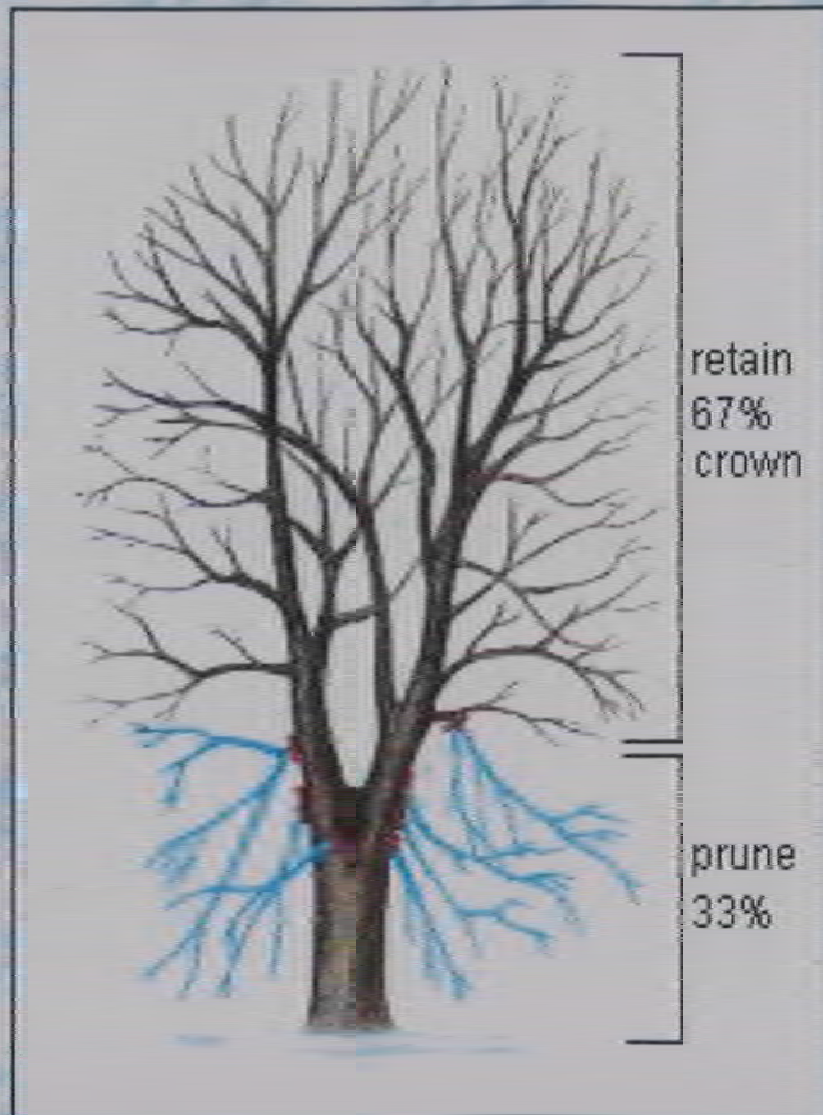
Crown Thinning

- Favor branches with strong, U-shaped angles of attachment. Remove branches with weak, V-shaped angles of attachment and/or included bark.
- Ideally, lateral branches should be evenly spaced on the main stem of young trees.
- Remove any branches that rub or cross another branch.
- Make sure that lateral branches are no more than one-half to three-quarters of the diameter of the stem to discourage the development of co-dominant stems.
- Do not remove more than one-quarter of the living crown of a tree at one time. If it is necessary to remove more, do it over successive years.



Crown Reduction

- Use crown reduction pruning only when absolutely necessary. Make the pruning cut at a lateral branch that is at least one-third the diameter of the stem to be removed.
- If it is necessary to remove more than half of the foliage from a branch, remove the entire branch.



Crown Raising

- Always maintain live branches on at least two-thirds of a tree's total height.
- Removing too many lower branches will hinder the development of a strong stem.
- Remove basal sprouts and vigorous epicormic sprouts.



Weak Branch Union

Characterized by very narrow angles of attachment (Branch Axils) and very weak unions



Topping

A poor maintenance practice often used to control the size of trees; involves the indiscriminate cutting of branches and stems at right angles leaving long stubs. Synonyms include rounding-over, heading-back, dehorning, capping and hat-racking. Topping is often improperly referred to as pollarding.



Tree Selection for the Abilene Area

1. Desert Willow
2. Vitex, Chaste
3. Chinkapin Oak
4. Bur Oak
5. Texas Redbud
6. Mexican White Oak or Monterrey Oak
7. Afghan Pine
8. Texas Mountain Laurel
9. Live Oak
10. Shumard Red Oak
11. Chinese Pistache
12. Pecan

With the Live Oak and the Red Oak, there are serious concerns about oak wilt. These trees should not be pruned from January through August. When possible, it is a good idea to use a pruning paint.

