

Objectives: 1) Keep low branches small with regular reduction cuts so that trunk wounds are small when branches are eventually removed. 2) Prevent low branches from growing up into the canopy by reducing or removing upright-growing stems and branches.

Execution: Instead of removing large low branches all at once, slow their growth by reducing their length if they will need to be removed later. Compared to removing the entire branch back to the trunk now, reduction of their length 1) is more attractive, 2) minimizes the size of the trunk wound when the low branches are eventually removed, and 3) helps prevent decay and cracks from entering the trunk.

