



LEARNING CENTER

STRUCTURAL PRUNING

WHAT IS STRUCTURAL PRUNING?

Using structural pruning, our goal is to increase structural integrity, encourage health and longevity by pruning to one dominant leader.

Structural pruning selectively favors a single, dominant leader trunk by suppressing branches that are competing to be a leader using selective reduction cuts. Selective cuts shorten stems back to lateral branches at least one-third the diameter of the cut stems.

STRUCTURAL PRUNING CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Develop or maintain a dominant leader.
- ✓ Identify the lowest branch in the permanent canopy.
- ✓ Prevent branches below the permanent canopy from growing upright or too large.
- ✓ Properly space main branches along the dominant trunk.
- ✓ Keep all branches less than one-half the diameter of the trunk.
- ✓ Suppress growth on branches with bark inclusion.

STRUCTURAL PRUNING | THE NOT SO OBVIOUS



BEFORE



AFTER

