



## Pruning Peach Trees

Goal of pruning:

- Open up the leaf canopy to let in more light and air
- Produce bigger, sweeter fruit (Fruit is produced on wood starting in it's 2nd year)

When to prune:

- Early spring
- Pruning in the winter can reduce the cold-hardiness of the tree and make it more vulnerable

Steps for pruning:

- Remove any diseased or broken branches, water sprouts and suckers
- Water sprouts are thin branches that grow out of the sides of the main canes from growth nodes (often growing horizontally).
- Remove old, slow, non-fruiting wood
- Remove 40% of the whole tree annually
- Remove suckers
- Remove branches growing inward, down or horizontally
- Keep the tree short (enough to harvest all the fruit)

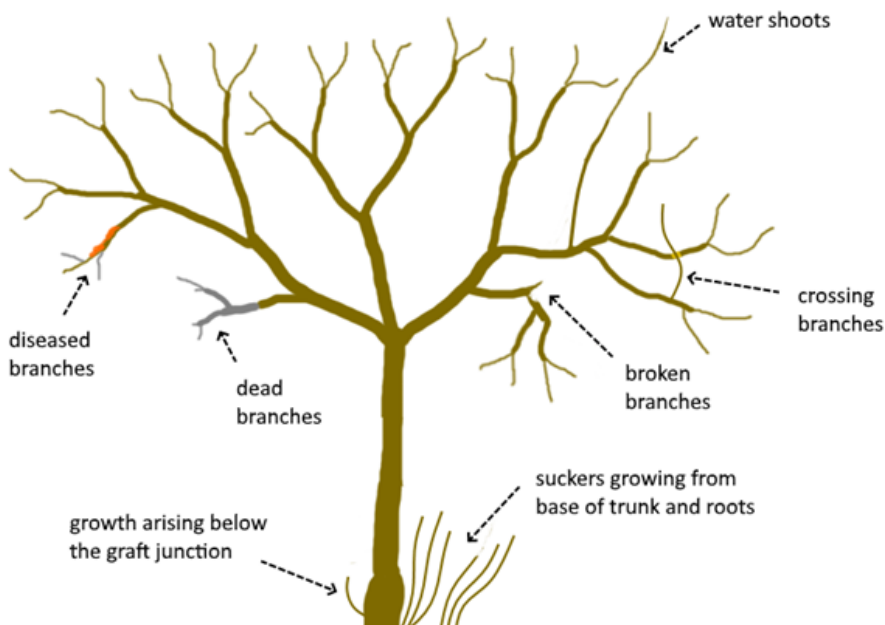
### Water Sprouts



\*\*\*The goal should be to shave the tree into roughly the shape of an upside down umbrella (with a hollow center) with 3-5 main branches forming the vase.

- Main branches should be evenly spaced
  - Going up and out of the trunk at a 45 degree angle
  - Leave the center open so lots of sunlight can get in

Before Any Pruning, Remove Unwanted Growth



Picture source:  
<https://deepgreenpermaculture.files.wordpress.com/2019/08/preliminaryfruittreep pruning.png>