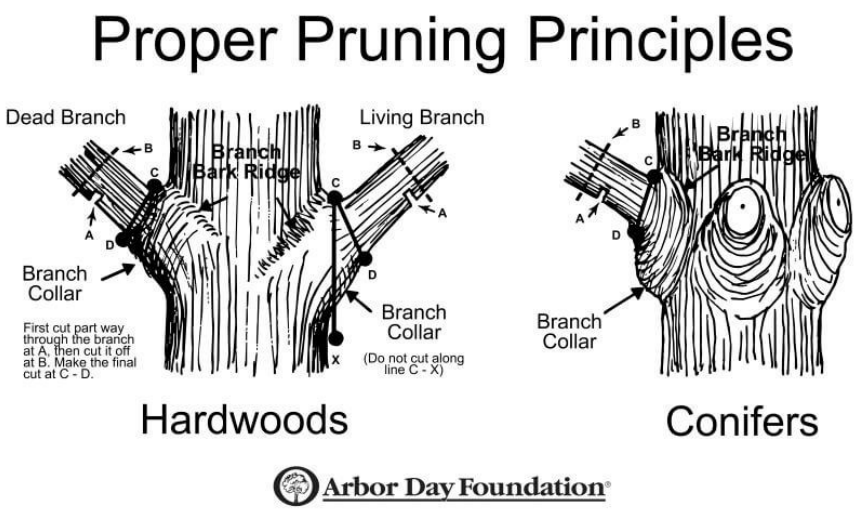
HOW TO PRUNE A TREE



Arbor Day Foundation

WHY SHOULD I PRUNE?

Safety, tree health, aesthetics, and value are the primary reasons for pruning trees. A single pruning can accomplish more than one objective and save time.

Safety
Pruning for safety removes branches that could fall and cause personal injury or property damage. Removing low branches in fire-prone areas can prevent a ground fire from climbing into the tops (crowns) of the trees.

Tree health
Pruning for tree health removes diseased or insect-infested wood, thins the crown to increase airflow and reduce some pest problems, and removes crossing and rubbing branches. Removing broken or damaged limbs encourages wound closure and prevents diseases from entering the tree. Pruning encourages trees to develop a strong structure and reduces the likelihood of damage during severe weather.

Aesthetics
Removing lower limbs to improve visibility in your woods and to stimulate flower production are primary reasons to prune for aesthetics. Pruning also increases the amount of sunlight that reaches the ground, stimulating growth of wildflowers and flowering shrubs.

Value
Pruning for value increases the amount of high value wood products produced on individual trees. Pruning preferred trees produces knot-free wood. (See the Backyard Woods Tip Sheet on Help Your Preferred Trees Grow for more information) A knot is the portion of a branch that becomes incorporated within the trunk of the tree. Knots are the primary reason for reduction in lumber value.

City of Darlington
South Carolina

ARBOR DAY

REMEMBRANCE

DECEMBER 9, 2025

119B Blue Street

Darlington, South Carolina

AGENDA
DARLINGTON CITY TREE BOARD

City of Darlington
South Carolina

Meeting and Arbor Day Remembrance

Tuesday, December 9th, 2025
10:30 am

A Squared Investments Complex on Blue Street,
a City of Darlington Facility
119B Blue Street
Darlington, SC 29532

- Call to Order, Tree Board Chairman Albert James, III
- Arbor Day Proclamation, Mayor Curtis Boyd
- Arbor Day Address, Ann Huyler/**Urban Forestry Specialist**
- Poetry Reading, City Manager Lenessa E. Hawkins
- Adjournment, Tree Board Chairman Albert James, III

Tree Board

Ms. Rosanne Brasington
Ms. Sarah Fallaw
Ms. Joy Goodsell
Mr. Albert James, III, Chair

The Heart of the Tree

HENRY CUYLER BUNNER

What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants a friend of sun and sky;
He plants the flag of breezes free;
The shaft of beauty, towering high;
He plants a home to heaven anigh;
For song and mother-croon of bird
In hushed and happy twilight heard—
The treble of heaven's harmony—
These things he plants who plants a tree.

What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants cool shade and tender rain,
And seed and bud of days to be,
And years that fade and flush again;
He plants the glory of the plain;
He plants the forest's heritage;
The harvest of a coming age;
The joy that unborn eyes shall see—
These things he plants who plants a tree.

What does he plant who plants a tree?
He plants, in sap and leaf and wood,
In love of home and loyalty
And far-cast thought of civic good—
His blessings on the neighborhood,
Who in the hollow of His hand
Holds all the growth of all our land—
A nation's growth from sea to sea
Stirs in his heart who plants a tree.

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