

## WHAT TO REMOVE (diagram 2)

\*dead branches can be a doorway to insects and disease. Prune back to live wood. Stubs are the result of improper pruning and should be cut back to the branch collar.

\*Diseased branches should be pruned to prevent spread of disease and are unsightly

\*Watersprouts and suckers indicate a tree under stress. This growth is high in nitrogen and can attract insects. They can also be unattractive.

\*Crossing and rubbing branches can cause structural weakness

\*Be aware of the natural form of the species of tree you are pruning. Work with the natural form of the tree.

\*Never remove the central leader. Try to prune in such a way that the branches are balanced around the trunk of the tree, balancing the weight of the branches. Remove branches growing downwards or at awkward angles.

**CONSULT WITH A TREE SPECIALIST OR CERTIFIED ARBORIST IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE**

## HOW TO PRUNE (diagram 1)

Tree pruning starts at planting and can be required throughout the life of the tree. Pruning newly planted trees correctly will provide you with a balanced tree later.

Small trees and small branches can be pruned using hand pruners. Prune as labeled (C) in the diagram. Branches over 2" diameter will require stronger equipment, including chain saws. Be absolutely sure to familiarize yourself with safety procedures whenever using any tool. Even hand pruners can cause damage to you or the tree when not used correctly.

Larger pruning cuts require 3 cuts in order to protect the tree. The undercut (A) is to prevent the weight of the branch from falling and stripping the trunk. Cut (B) is to remove the branch. There can be several (B) cuts in order to remove heavier branches. Cut (C) is carefully cut to the branch collar, a slight swelling of the trunk where new growth will heal the cut. Remnants from an improperly pruned branch can prevent the wound from healing properly. The same is true of the pruning damages the branch collar. Precision is an important aspect of tree pruning.

# TREE PRUNING GUIDE

## THE BASICS OF PRUNING TREES



City of Sevierville

Dept of Parks and Recreation

200 Gary Wade Blvd

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[www.seviervilleparksandrec.com](http://www.seviervilleparksandrec.com)

Diagram #2

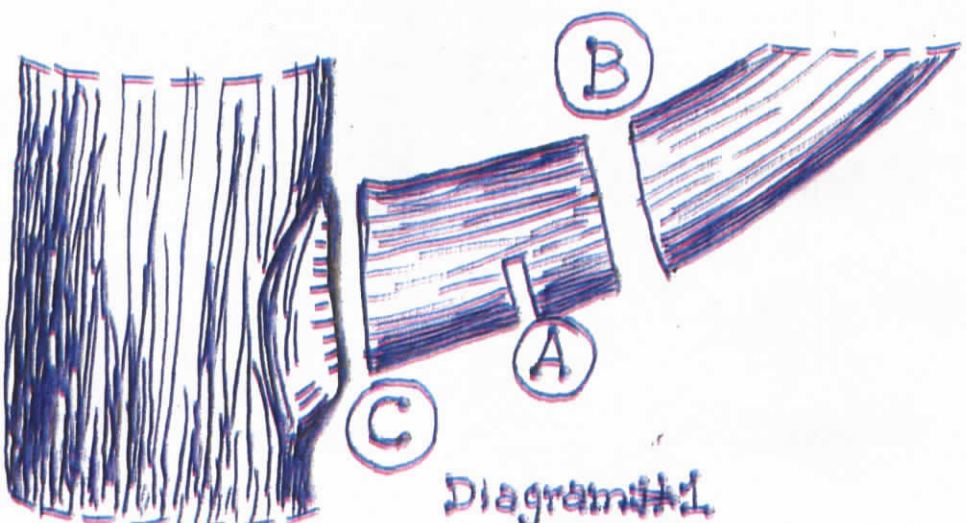
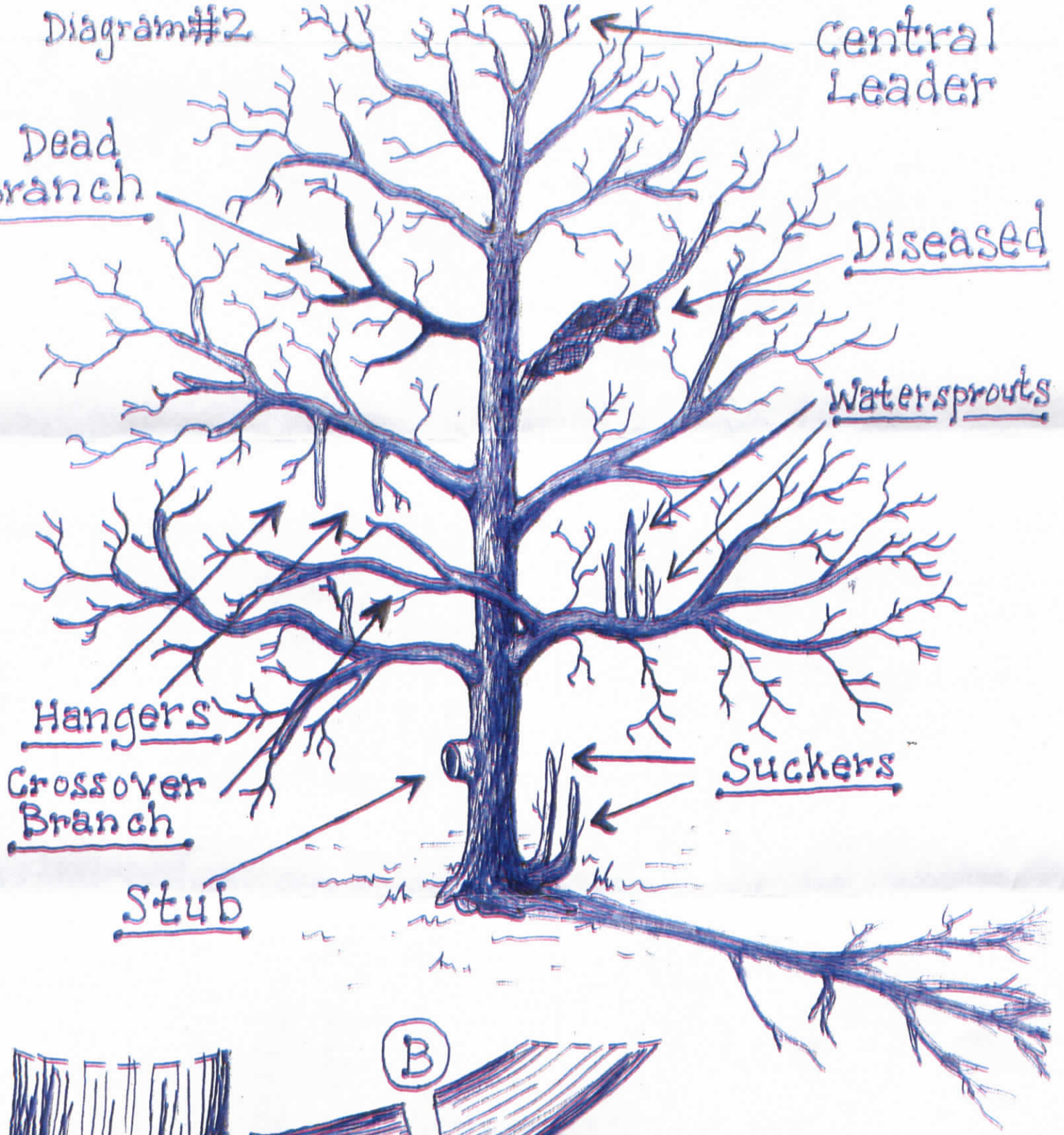


Diagram #1