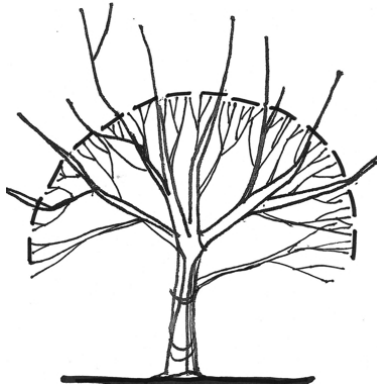


Avoiding Tree Trimming Problems

by Mark L. Johnson, MLA, ASLA

Avoid hatracking by studying the character of the tree that has a problem. Keeping trees and shrubs in a sheered form can reduce air circulation and encourage the onset of disease, etc.

NO

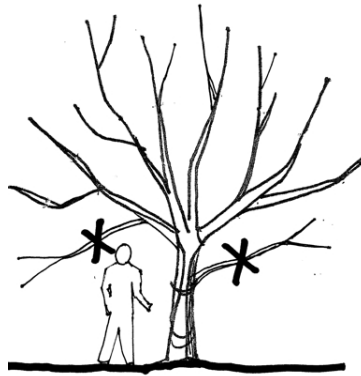


What genus of tree is it?
You can't tell by its shape.

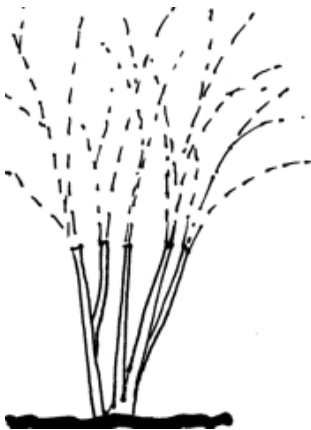
OAK ?
ELM ?
SWEET GUM ?
CRAPE MYRTLE ?
HOLLY ?
BLUE BERRY ?
WAX MYRTLE ?
LIGUSTRUM ?

It often makes sense to remove an entire limb well within the structure of the plant, versus trimming the ends of multiple branches that require constant attention to keep them in control. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Service Office (IFAS) concerning proper techniques for shaping trees and shrubs.

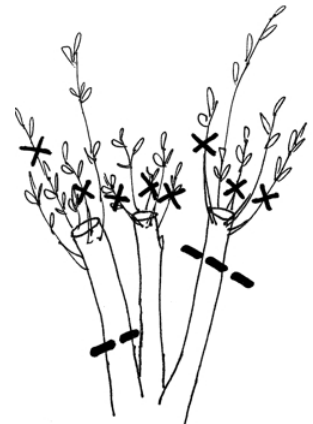
YES



We've all seen the improper pruning of multi-trunked Crape Myrtles in recent years. While deadheading (removing spent flower blooms as they decline) may encourage a slightly longer bloom period, pollarding (cutting the trunks at the same height) destroys the character of the plant.



If you already have a pollarded tree, in time you may be able to attain a more natural character. Cut the trunks at uneven heights and removing many of the new branches so that a knot of new growth is not concentrated at the same point on the trunk. Then, practice proper pruning to shape your tree over several years.



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