



Canopy Management in Ornamental Shrubs and Perennials

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Canopy in an ornamental and fruit tree refers to its physical composition comprising of stem, branches, shoots and leaves. The canopy density is determined by the number and size of the leaves, architecture of stem, branches and shoots. Canopy management of the shrub and Ornamental tree deals with the development and maintenance of their structure in relation to the development of beautiful tree form suitable for garden the basic concept in canopy management of a perennial tree is to make the best use of the land, the climatic factors for an increased beautification in a three dimensional approach.

The natural tree canopy of the shrub and tree varies greatly from species to species and cultivar to cultivar. The size, shape and volume of canopy are affected by climate, planting density, rootstock, method of propagation, training, pruning, regularity of bearing, soil type, nutrition, irrigation, intercrop, growth regulators used, diseases, pests, environmental pollution etc.

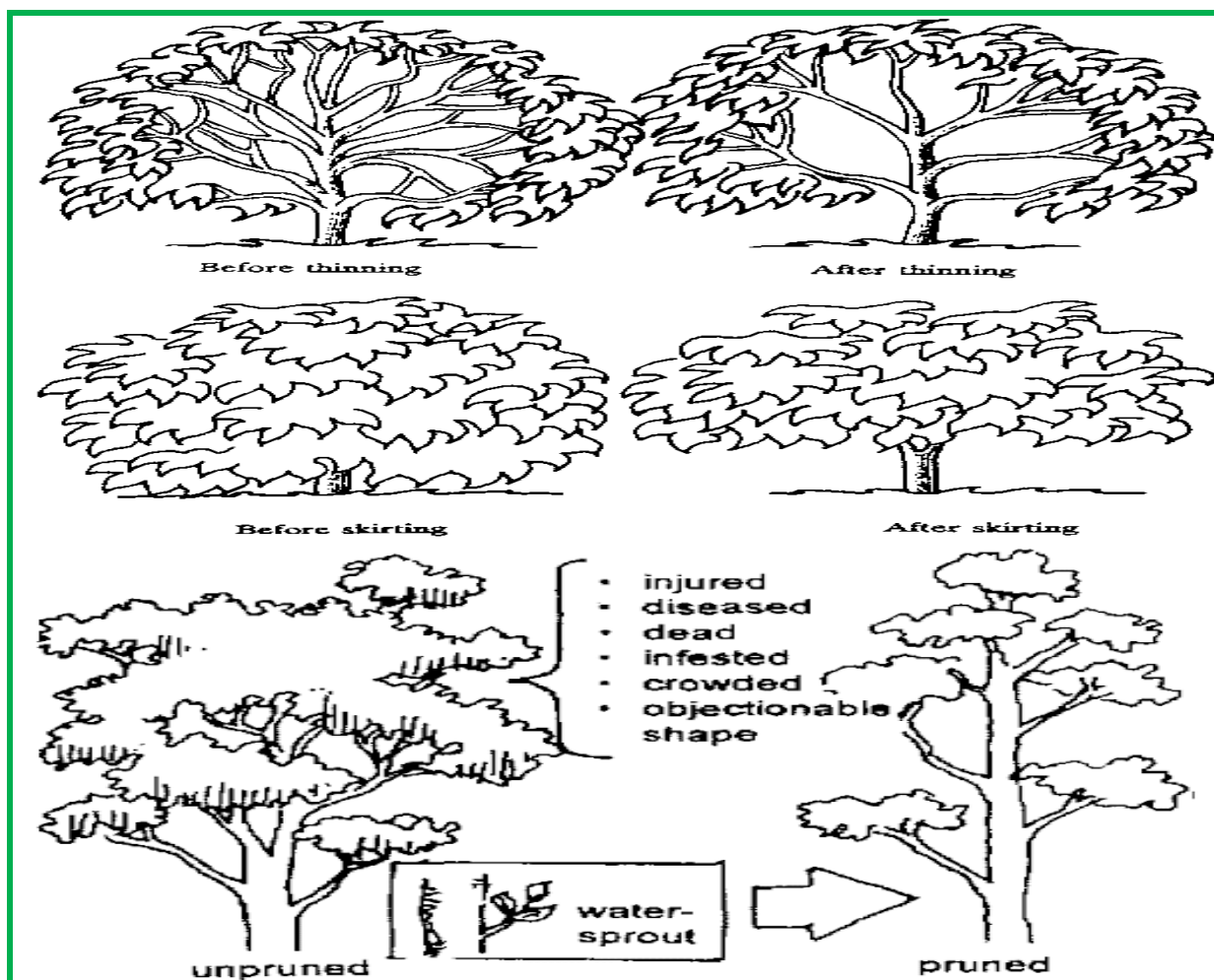
Basic Principles in Canopy Management

1. Maximum utilization of light.
2. Avoidance of built-up microclimate congenial for diseases and pest infestation.
3. Convenience in varying out the cultural operations and increasing the beauty of garden.
4. Economy in obtaining the required canopy architecture.

Canopy Management of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs

1. After transplanting ornamental trees or shrub in the garden field and providing the vertical support during its growing period, no shoot is allowed to grow up to 80-90 cm.
2. The height of the head is kept comparatively more than other trees to avoid the drooping.
3. Branches reach and spread on the ground. Beyond this height, 4-5 side shoots which are properly placed are selected to form scaffold limbs.
4. During first 2-3 years after planting trees are trained to develop a strong framework.
5. After that, old growth is beheaded during March, keeping 1-2 nodes above the graft union to allow vigorous new growth.
6. One upright growing vigorous shoot is retained to develop into main trunk which is kept clean of secondary branches up to 30 cm height from the ground level.
7. On the main trunk, 3 or 4 well spaced and favorably located main branches are allowed.
8. When it is headed back during second year, these main branches are also clipped, retaining 3- 4 secondary branches on each of them. This process is continued to develop tertiary branches.

9. This basic frame of the tree is maintained by removing water sprouts as and when they emerge. Correction in the framework is done at the time of annual pruning.
10. Annual pruning in flowering and other ornamental trees is essential to induce maximum number of new healthy shoots which bear good quality fragrance flower and fruits.
11. Pruning is done during the hot and dry season when tree sheds leaves and enters into Dormancy. In Maharashtra, pruning must be completed by the April end, while in Haryana by the May end severity in pruning also differs at different locations. In general, light Pruning, at about 25 buds, is the best.



Why Pruning of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs

Pruning is one of the most important cultural practices in landscape management. Proper pruning helps keep plants' attractive and vigorous and will add years to the plants usefulness.

- To improve survival chances at planting time.
- To control size and shape.
- To remove dead, diseased, weak or broken branches.
- To maintain natural beauty.
- Prune to maintain plant health Remove dead, damaged or diseased plant tissue to maintain Plant health and vigor

Time of Pruning

The best time for pruning most plants is in the early spring while the plants are still dormant. Spring flowering shrubs may be pruned at that time, but flowers for that season will be lost. For that reason, spring flowering shrubs are usually pruned as soon as flowering has been completed. Shrubs that flower in late spring and summer are best pruned in early spring. Avoid major pruning in late summer and early fall, as this may force late growth that will be damaged by freezing.

References

1. https://www.google.com/search?q=canopy+management+in+ornamentals&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwitl4ymjPnzAhUI8HMBHSSXCTcQ_AUoAXoECAIQAw&biw=1366&bih=657&dpr=1#imgrc=pNbJ2a4-OB6r6KM&imgdii=KGx-41R1K04otM
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