

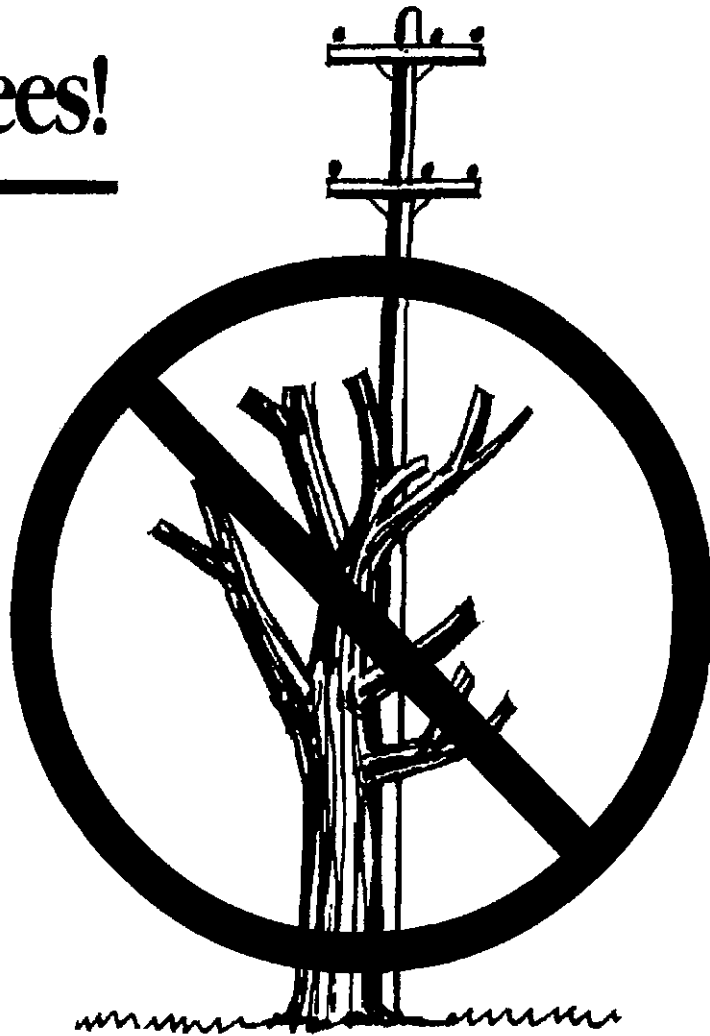
Don't Top Trees!

Cutting branches back to ugly stubs is one of the worst things you can do for your tree's health.

Topping destroys a tree's beauty and seriously reduces its ability to survive.

Tree care professionals say that topping — cutting main branches back to stubs — is the worst thing you can do for the health of a tree.

Your trees will lose their natural appearance, and the ugly, weakly-attached new limbs often grow back higher than the original branches. And these new limbs are more likely to be hazardous to people and property nearby.



4 Good Reasons Why NOT to "Top"

- **Tree Starvation:** Topping removes so much of the tree's leafy crown that it dangerously reduces the tree's food-making ability.
- **Insects and Disease:** The exposed ends of topped limbs are highly vulnerable to insects or decay fungi.
- **Weak Limbs:** New branches that grow from a stubbed limb are weakly attached and more likely to break from snow or ice weight.
- **Rapid New Growth:** Instead of controlling the tree's height, topping often results in more numerous, higher growing limbs than before.



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