

Pruning Stone Fruit

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Pruning Fruit Trees

- Developing and Training Young trees
 - Follow a plan or system... the most common historically for Stone Fruit is:
 - Open Center (Peach, Nectarine, Apricot, Japanese Plums)
 - Modified Central Leader (Prune Plum, Cherry)
- Pruning and maintaining mature trees
- Renovating older trees for an orchard or for the homeowner

Sour Cherry; Modified Central Leader



Buds are simple like peach,
with flowers forming on last
year branches or spurs



Sweet Cherry only bares blossoms / fruit on spurs



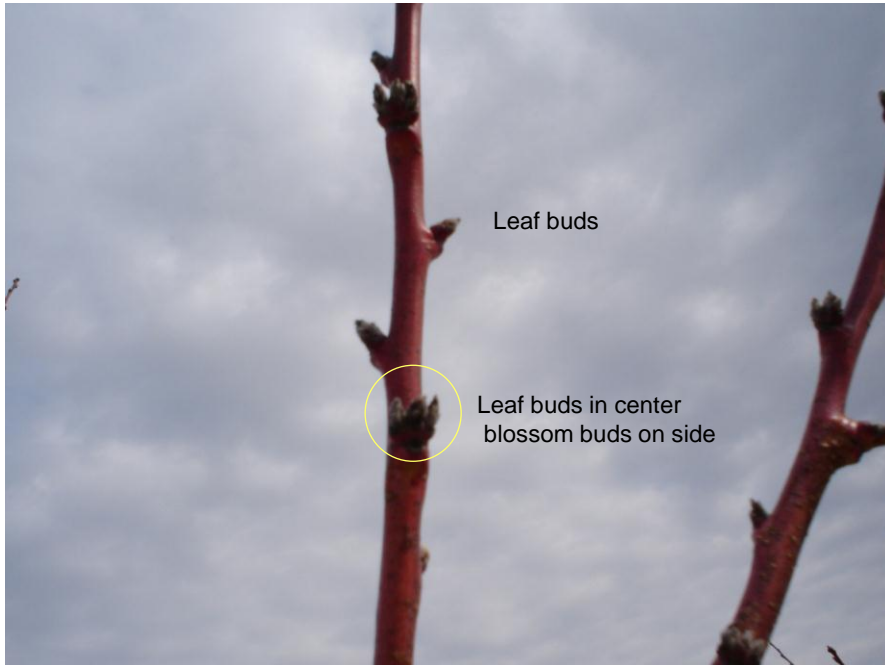


Sweet cherry – Modified
Central Leader for traditional
System

Open Center System (Vase)

- Traditional system from Europe.
- Used for fruit crops with canopies with a spreading habit: peach, nectarine, apricot, Japanese plums
- Can be applied to other crops; pears, apples, etc.
- Sacrifice crop production in early years to develop framework.
- Trunk is central axis for only first 24-30", bifurcates to 3-4 primary scaffolds
- Requires a strategic understanding in developing frame.

Peach buds are simple and form on last year growth only.



Peach/Nectarine branches



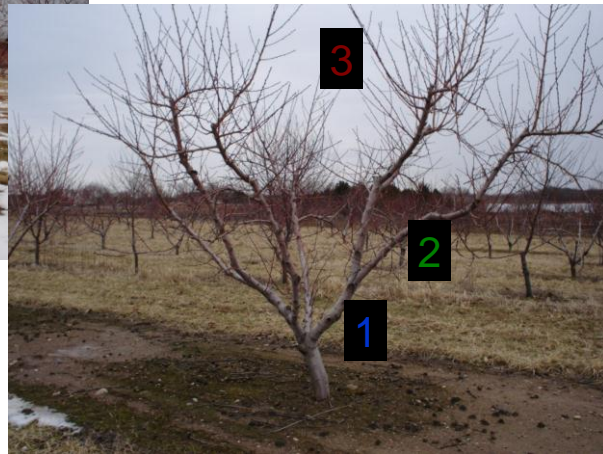
Peach bares on only last year growth: Apricot & Plum plus young spurs: renew growth



Open Center System

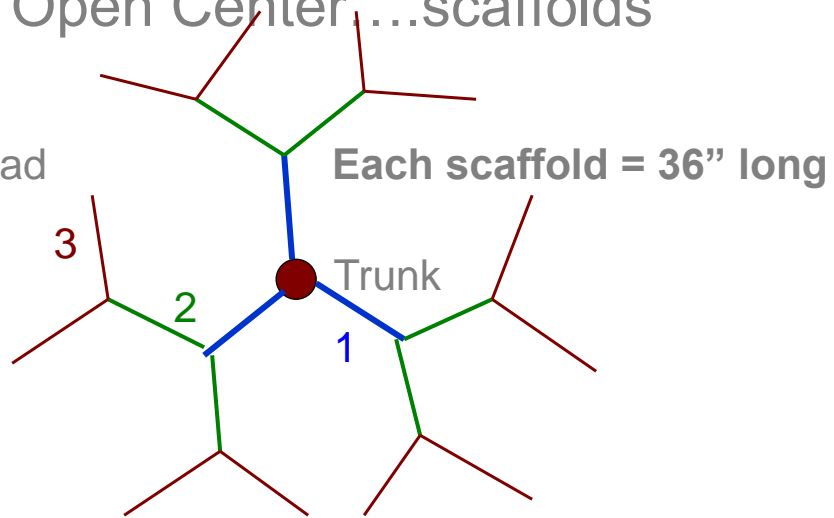


Wide angle crotch
at 24 "



Open Center ...scaffolds

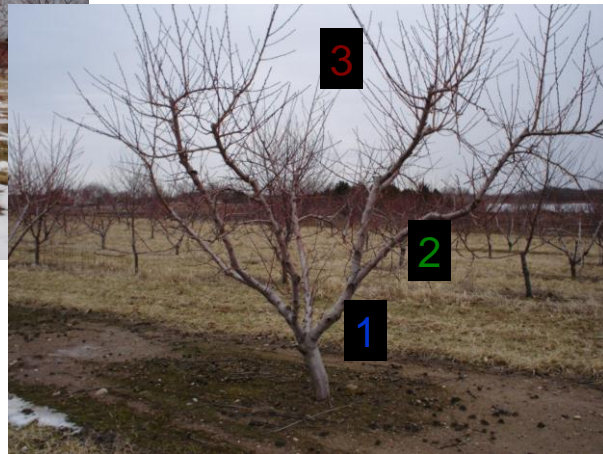
Overhead
view



Open Center System

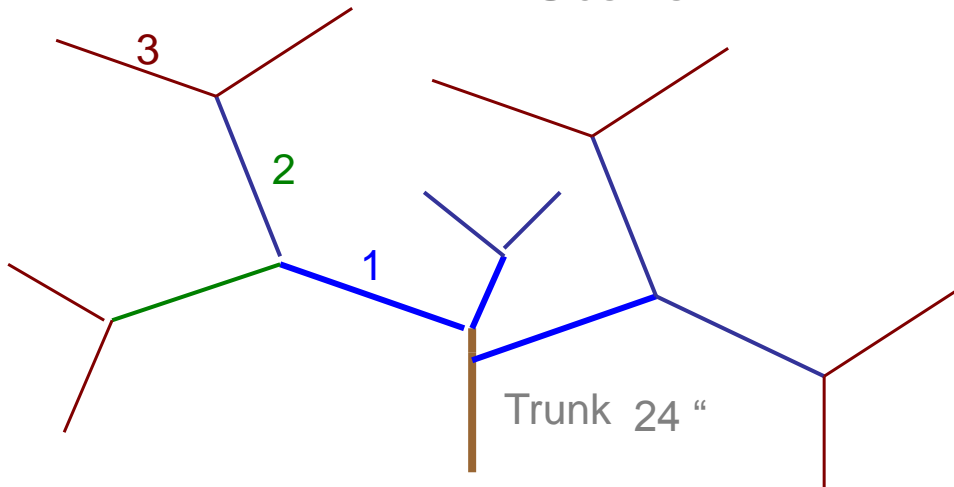


Wide angle crotch
at 24 "



Open Center....scaffolds

Side view



Bacterial canker influences pruning and scaffold / tree survival in Midwest and Eastern US



- Avoid by physically spreading branches in branch development phase.
- Avoid development of narrow crotch which causes “bark inclusion”.
- Included bark is where both cold injury and Bacterial Canker develop.

“Reduction” Cut or “Bench” Cut

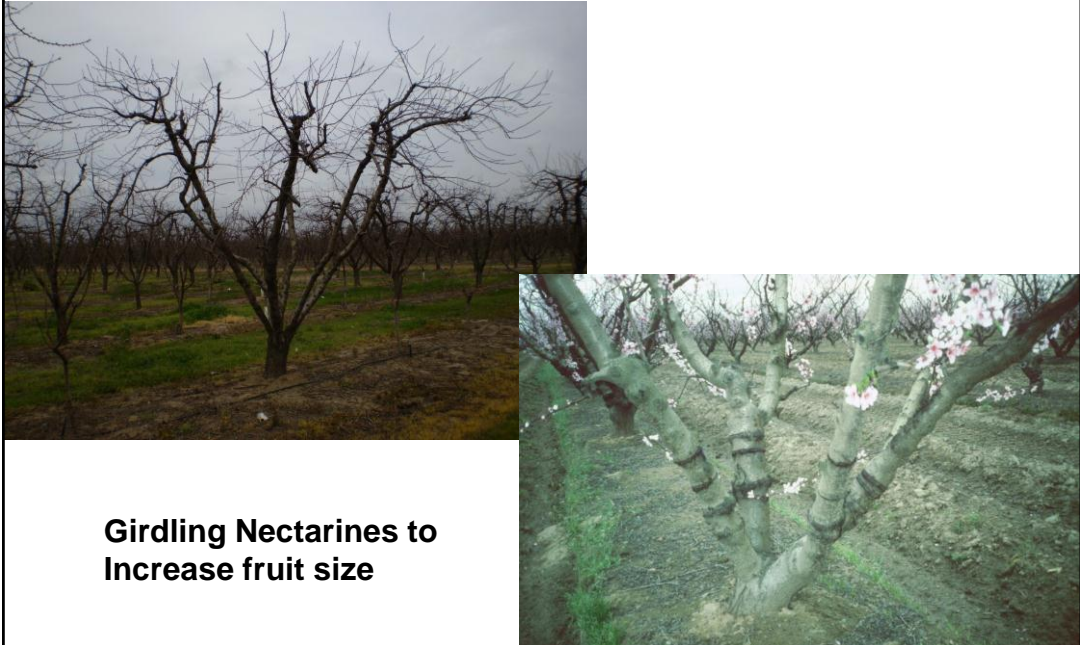


- Redirect growth to outward / away from central part of tree.
- Can be a problem if thinning cut is made too close to lateral.
- Encourages weakness

Reduction Cut or Bench Cut



Traditional Open Center System in California



**Girdling Nectarines to
Increase fruit size**

Tatura System Developed in Australia was the first “Y” System



Open Center: Peach, Apricot, Plums



Modified OC; high density version = “Y” System

Y System in California



Y System in California



Older orchard of peaches in Y system



Vase or Open Center



Peach



Pears

OC used in Almonds



OC used in Apples

