

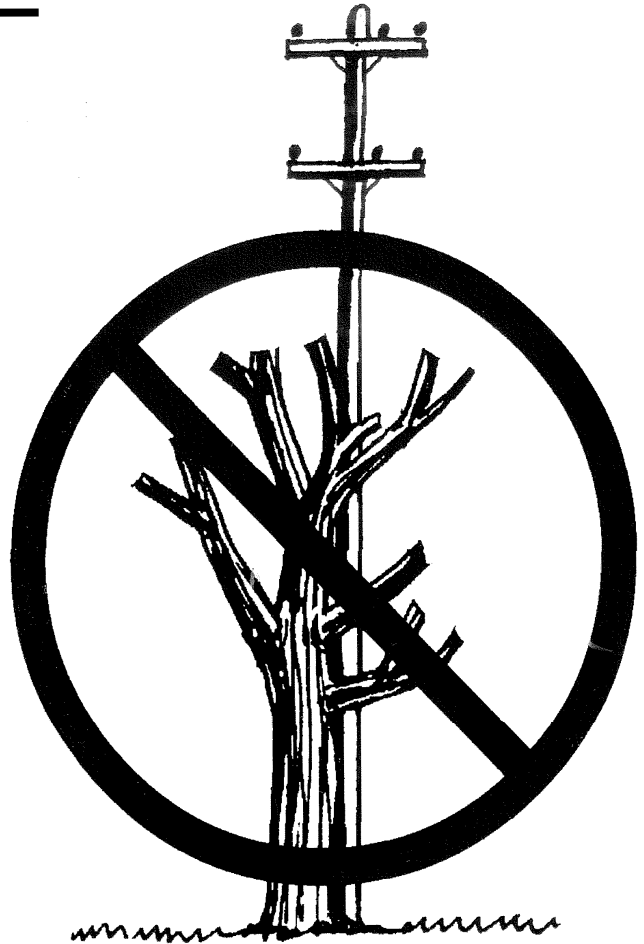
# Don't Top Trees!

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.