

The Keepers

If damage is relatively slight, prune any broken branches, repair torn bark or rough edges around wounds, and let the tree begin the process of wound repair.



Minor Damage

Although the tree has been damaged, enough strong limbs may remain on a basically healthy tree to make saving it possible.



An Easy Call

A mature shade tree can usually survive the loss of one major limb. The broken branch should be pruned back to the trunk.



Too Young to Die

Young trees recover quickly. If the leader and structure for branching is intact, remove the broken branches so the tree can recover.

Wait and See

If a tree appears to be a borderline case, don't simply cut it down. It's best to give the tree some time. A final decision can be made later.



Easy Does It

Resist the temptation to prune too heavily. The tree will need all the foliage it can produce in order to manufacture the food needed to get through to the next growing season.



Hold Off

A healthy, mature tree can recover even when several major limbs are damaged. A professional arborist should assess damage on a borderline tree to safely remove branches.

Say Goodbye

Some trees simply can't be saved or are not worth saving. If the tree has already been weakened by disease, if the trunk is split, or more than 50 percent of the crown is gone, the tree has lost its survival edge.



Farewell to a Friend

A rotten inner core in the trunk or structural weakness in branching patterns can cause a split trunk. The wounds are too large to ever mend.



Hopeless Case

All that's left is the trunk. The few remaining branches can't provide enough foliage to enable the tree to survive through another growing season.



Tree Tragedy

This tree has lost too much of its leafy crown. It probably won't grow enough new branches and leaves to provide nourishment and regain its former beautiful shape.

Because of its weight, a branch can tear loose during pruning, stripping the bark and creating jagged edges that invite insects and disease. To prevent that, follow these steps:

- A. Make a partial cut from below, several inches away from the trunk.
- B. Make a second cut from above several inches out from the first cut, to allow the limb to fall safely.
- C. Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar (the raised area that surrounds the branch) where it joins the trunk.

