



## Making a Proper Pruning Cut

1. **Sharpen Your Tool:** Dull blades tear wood fibers, killing more living cells and blocking the healing process
2. **Choose where to cut:** For the truly ideal cut, when possible, cut to a bud or offshoot that is not only healthy but points in the direction you want future growth to occur, usually away from the center of the plant. It's usually worth cutting back farther – pruning off more wood – which favors development of good structure.
3. **Choose the right tool:** For most cuts you can reach from the ground, you will choose between three (3) main tools: pole pruners, hand pruners, and hand saws.
4. **Tips, Technique, and Tricks:**
  - Safety equipment: work gloves and safety goggles
  - If the branch seems too large or heavy make a preliminary cut to relieve some weight before your final pruning cut.
  - If using pruners or loppers, maneuver the branch as deep between the blades as you can before making your cut.
  - When working near a tight branch crotch with a lopper or pruner, place the thin, non-bladed side of the tool inside the crotch.
  - If using a saw, nick and then slowly scrape into the wood a little before really going at it in earnest. The groove will make you stop the saw from slipping as you work.



Photo Credit: morguefile.com/Alvimann



Northern Virginia  
Tree Experts, Inc.

## NVTE Company News

### Ownership of NVTE has changed.

Bernie & Ellen Spigt started NVTE in 1977. **After more than 40 years, they have passed the business on to their daughter & son-in-law.** Our customers will not see any changes in our operations.

As of February 28, 2018, Northern Virginia Tree experts, is now in the capable hands of Jennifer & Bryan Giere and Chris Spigt.



# Wind Storm Topples Tree Planted by George Washington

The recent powerful nor'easter that hit our area March 2nd knocked down a tree planted by George Washington himself. He had planted the Canadian Hemlock in 1791 at his home, Mount Vernon. It also brought down a Virginia Cedar that stood watch over Washington's tomb for many years.

Heavy winds ripped through our region with gusts up to 70 mph. Many trees were toppled, street lights and power lines were brought down leaving thousands in the dark. Unfortunately a piece of history was also lost.

Photo by Rob Shenk  
Senior Vice President, Visitor Engagement of Mount Vernon Preservation Staff

## LEESBURG



### Events:

Leesburg Flower & Garden Festival will be held on April 21-22 this year.

If you are attending, please stop by the Leesburg Tree Commission booth and say "HI" to Chris Spigt, one of our Certified Arborists, who volunteers for the Commission.



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