

1963

EC63-1836 Plant Diseases : Treatment of Tree Injuries

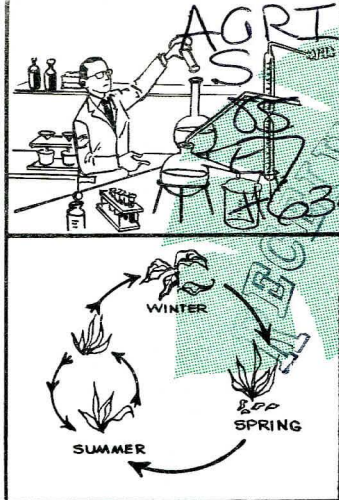
John Weihing

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PLANT DISEASES

EC 63-1836

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TREATMENT OF TREE INJURIES

Mechanical injuries to trees may occur in many ways, such as wind, scuffing by automobiles, banging with the lawn mower, or small boys swinging baseball bats against the tree. The more severe mechanical injuries should be treated promptly after the damage occurs. A delay of several weeks or a month may permit fungi to make such deep inroads into the tree as to result in its complete removal. Virtually all trunk cavities may be prevented if the original injury is properly treated soon after it occurs.



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Shaping the Wound

In treating a trunk or a branch wound, the bark should be cut away in a boat shape (Figure 1) with smooth, clean edges. Since the flow of sap is primarily up and down and is rather slow across a trunk or branch, the shaping of the wound should be such that the boat shape is parallel to the trunk or branch. The edges of the wound should be clean and smooth and the tapered ends designed so they will not collect any water.

Broken branches should be cut off flush at the crotch (Figure 2). If a branch has been torn off at the crotch, smooth the torn area and shape the edges so that water cannot collect (Figure 3).

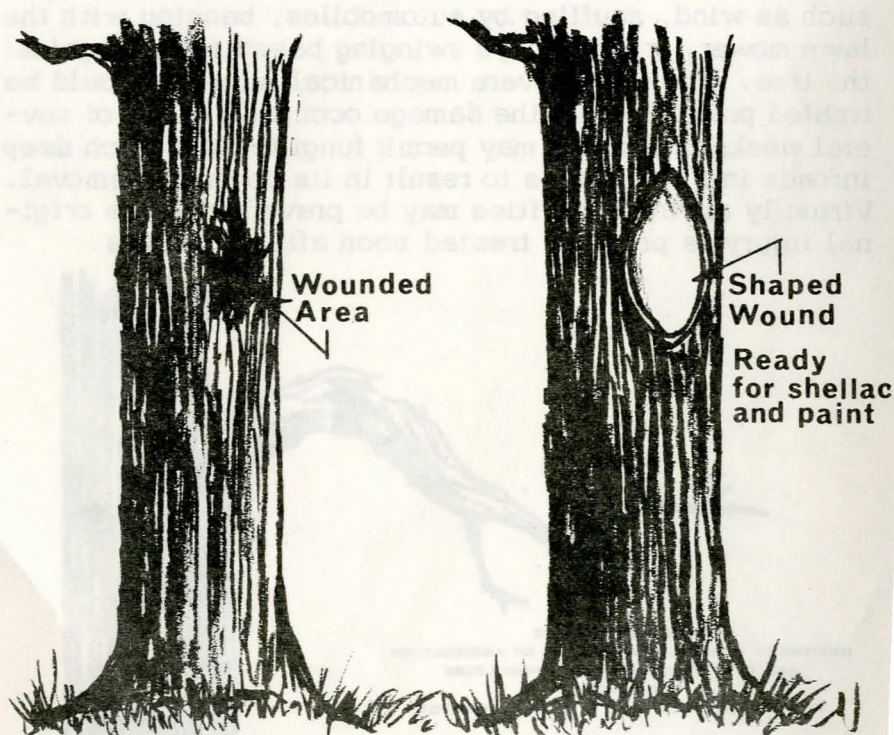


FIG. 1

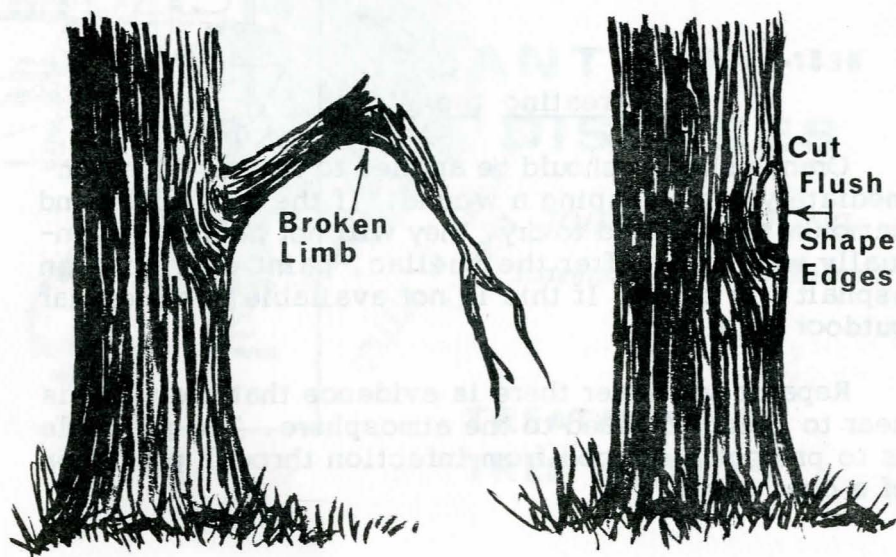
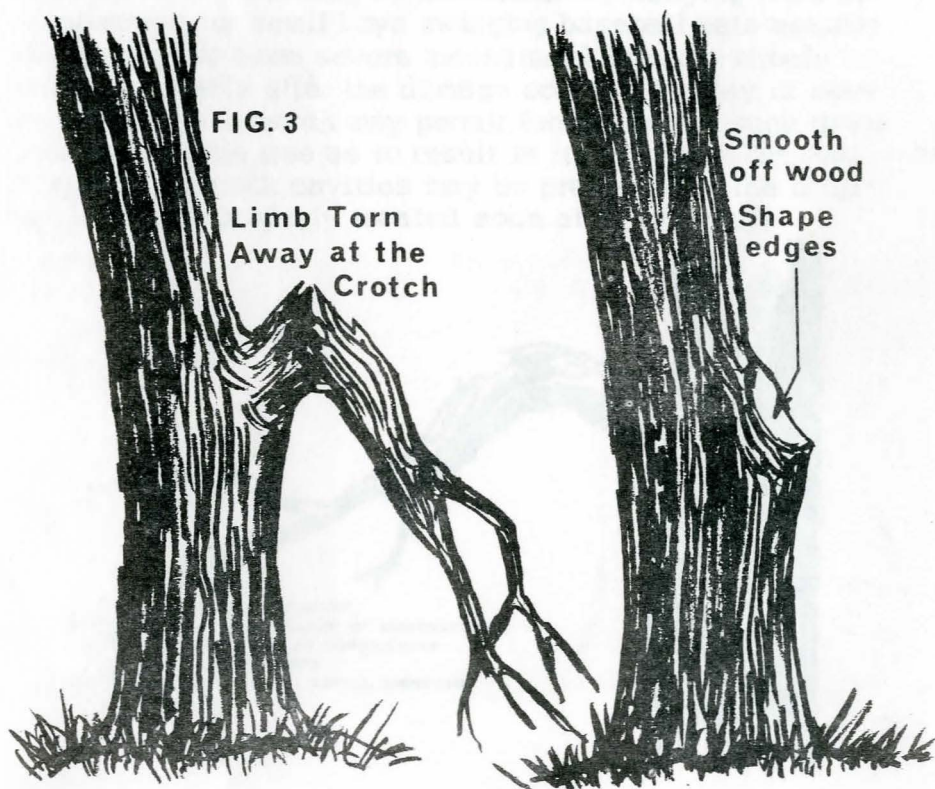


FIG. 2



Treating the Wound

Orange shellac should be applied to the cut edges immediately after shaping a wound. If the inner bark and cambium are allowed to dry, they will not heal and eventually will die. After the shellac, paint over with an asphalt trio paint. If this is not available, use regular outdoor paint.

Repaint whenever there is evidence that the wood is near to being exposed to the atmosphere. The principle is to protect the wood from infection through provision of a coat of paint.