



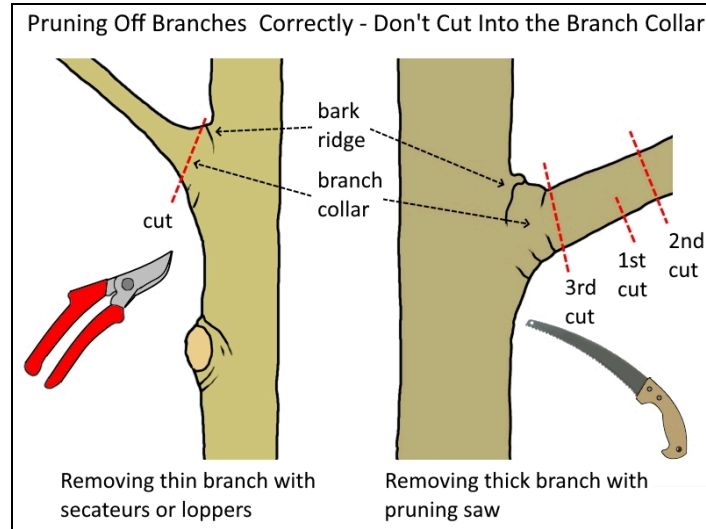
# STORM DAMAGED TREES

By Dr. Moon

The trees in your yard are your most valuable landscape asset. So, if all the recent storms in Texas have damaged or broken tree limbs in your tree, you must repair this damage to keep your tree healthy and vigorous. You should hire a certified arborist to prune your trees if your damage is extensive. Certified arborists are trained to make all pruning cuts correctly and consider how to retrain your trees for growth if there are voids where you have branches that need to be removed.

Leaving broken branches in your trees is not just an aesthetic issue. It's a safety hazard. These branches can pose a threat to pedestrians or your property if they fall. Moreover, splintered branches do not heal and can attract insects and diseases if not removed properly. It's important to address this issue promptly to ensure the safety of your surroundings.

If you, as a homeowner, have a broken limb that you need to remove and it does not put you in danger due to the height and weight of the branch, prune this branch correctly by following the diagram.



For smaller branches, you can use loppers to remove them. Just remember not to cut into the branch collar, which is where you see the bark beginning to roll next to the trunk. For larger branches, the process is a bit more involved. Start with an undercut several inches out on the branch away from the branch collar. This prevents the heavy limb from stripping the bark on the trunk when it's removed. Then, make a second cut a few inches further out than the first cut to remove the branch. Finally, make the third cut correctly next to the branch collar. This cut should be at an angle to prevent water collection and promote rapid healing. For these larger limbs, you may need a razor saw or chain saw.

For most homeowners, the safest path to saving the tree and protecting their health is to hire a company with a certified arborist to do the pruning for them.

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## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS!!**

### **Check the Staking Materials on Your Trees**

If it has been more than a year since your tree was planted, shake the trunk. If the root ball does not move, it is time to remove all staking materials. DO NOT let the guy wires cut into the bark, damaging trees! If the root ball is

still moving, leave on staking materials, but make sure to loosen all ties as needed to prevent damage to branches and tree trunks.



### **BEWARE OF PESKY CRABGRASS & NUTGRASS!**

If you didn't apply a pre-emergent in the spring, apply it in September. You can use Halts or Preen pre-emergent for turf to prevent crabgrass from growing. If crabgrass has already appeared, you can use Bio-Advanced Crabgrass Weed Killer as a post-emergent treatment. For nutgrass in Bermudagrass turf, you can use Image, which also works for crabgrass.

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### **Aphids, Scale, & Powdery Mildew on Crape Myrtles**

By Dr. Gradilla

Trees and plants, when weakened by freeze or storm damage, can become susceptible to insects and diseases like aphids, scale, and powdery mildew. This vulnerability is particularly evident in Crape Myrtles, which are often found to be highly prone to these issues.

If you notice your crape myrtle leaves appearing shiny and wet, and it's not due to rain or irrigation, it's likely a sign of aphids. These pests leave a sticky residue on plants and the ground, often leading to the growth of fungus that turns plants black. However, you can effectively combat aphids with *Bio-Advanced Insect, Disease, & Mite Control*, a 3-in-1 product that

controls Insects, Diseases, and Mites, or with Neem Oil, which also helps with insects, mites, and some diseases. Rest assured, once you take control of the aphids, the sticky, wet “honeydew” will disappear.



Crape myrtles are also highly susceptible to scale, which are stationary insects found on the trunks and branches of plants. To control scale, you can use Neem Oil for temporary control, *BioAdvanced Tree and Shrub Protect & Feed*, or *Bayer Tree and Shrub Protect & Feed* for controlling scale and aphids up to 12 months. After application, make sure to water into the soil.



Powdery mildew is a fungus that can impact young leaves, shoots, and flowers of plants. Symptoms include white spots on leaves, early wilting,

and stunted growth—an approved fungicide like *Daconil* treats powdery mildew and other leaf spot diseases. When treating for insects and diseases, be sure to follow label instructions for application and watering.



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**PURPLE FOUNTAIN GRASS**



**CORA VINCA XDR**



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