



This young sapling presents an opportunity to correct some structural concerns with much more ease than in the future when it would be larger & taller.

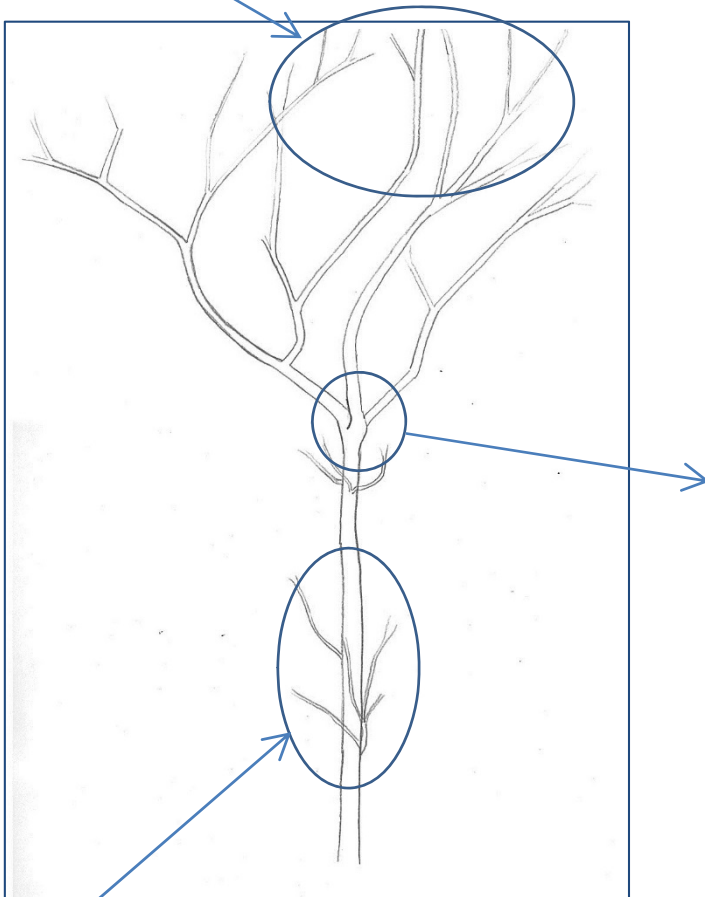
To begin, Bruce points-out that the tree has favored using its energy toward vertical growth rather than lateral growth. Lateral growth is more conducive to producing fruit when a tree has plenty of space like this one. His recommendation is to shift this balance, and also reduce the dense concentration of growth near the center of the crown.

The next step is to determine how to best accomplish these goals with as little stress on the tree as possible. After close examination Bruce found a bad union between two of the more dominant stems. One or the other needed to be removed to avoid structural failure in the future.

By removing the co-dominant stem on the right multiple things are accomplished:

- Chances of structural problems & breakage at the union are reduced
- Dense area of crown is opened to more light & air
- Lateral growth is encouraged, vertical growth reduced

Dense growth in the central part of crown. The tree has favored growth in the vertical direction. More Lateral growth is preferable for fruit production.



Epicormic sprouts on bole will be left to protect the bark from buck rubs. They'll be removed in the future.



Included bark was forming at the union of two dominant stems. The larger stem left behind will now grow freely and develop a strong union. Two lesser branches are left to grow freely. They do not impose upon the remaining dominant stem.