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MASTER GARDENER HOMEWORK DUE SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

Topic: Trees: Selection, Planting, Uses and Care
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Reading Assignment: **Texas Master Gardener Handbook**, Chapter 7, Pages 7-35 to 7-41 and **Lone Star Gardening**: "*Some First Class Fruit Trees*"
(Recommendation: Concentrate on these pages in Ch. 7, but read as much of the chapter as you can.)

1. List the 4 purposes for pruning trees:

2. A weak, "buggy whip" trunk results from what common pruning mistake?

3. Light cutting back (less than 6 inches) of the terminal end of a vigorously-growing branch induces _____ branching up and down the branch. If the branch is heavily cut back, the buds just below the cut grow at a very _____ rate.

4. Pruning thick, heavy branches flush to the trunk of the tree (removing the collar of the branch) causes a serious trunk wound and subjects the trunk to infection from _____ - _____ fungi.

5. Painting the wound after cutting is no longer commonly recommended because paints or wound dressings may trap _____ and increase _____ problems.

6. Describe the process referred to by some as the "Texas chain saw massacre."

7. When should shrubs that bloom in the early spring be pruned?

8. List ten shrubs or small trees that bloom on the previous season's growth: (1 point each)

9. List five shrubs or trees that bloom on the current year's growth: (two points each)

10. Most evergreen shrubs cannot stand the severe pruning required to rejuvenate them if they have become overgrown and may need to be replaced. Two exceptions are _____ and _____.