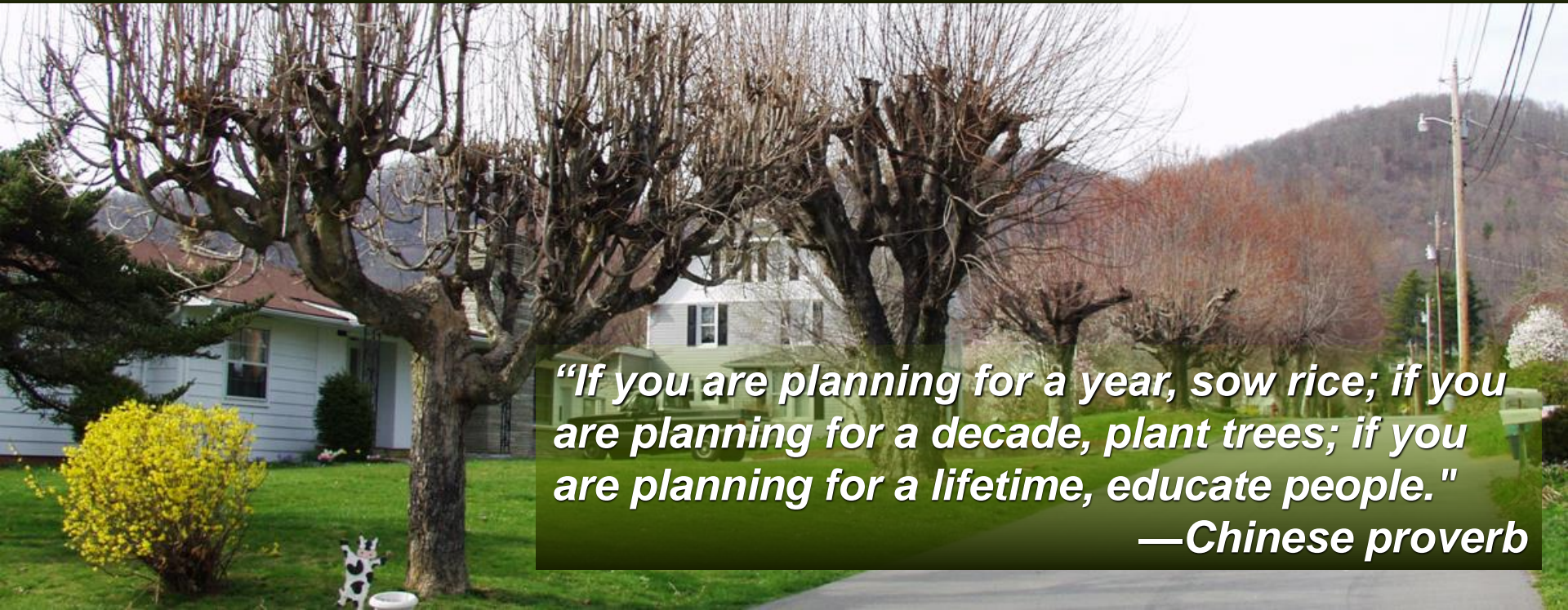


Why Topping Hurts Trees



"If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people."
—Chinese proverb

Presentation objectives



Benefits of trees



Definition of topping



Why topping?




Why is topping bad?

- Stress
- Decay
- Sun damage
- Risk
- Disfigurement
- Expense



Topping stresses trees



Removing a large amount of leaves causes the tree to enter into a survival mode. New shoots develop profusely in response.

Trees need leaves



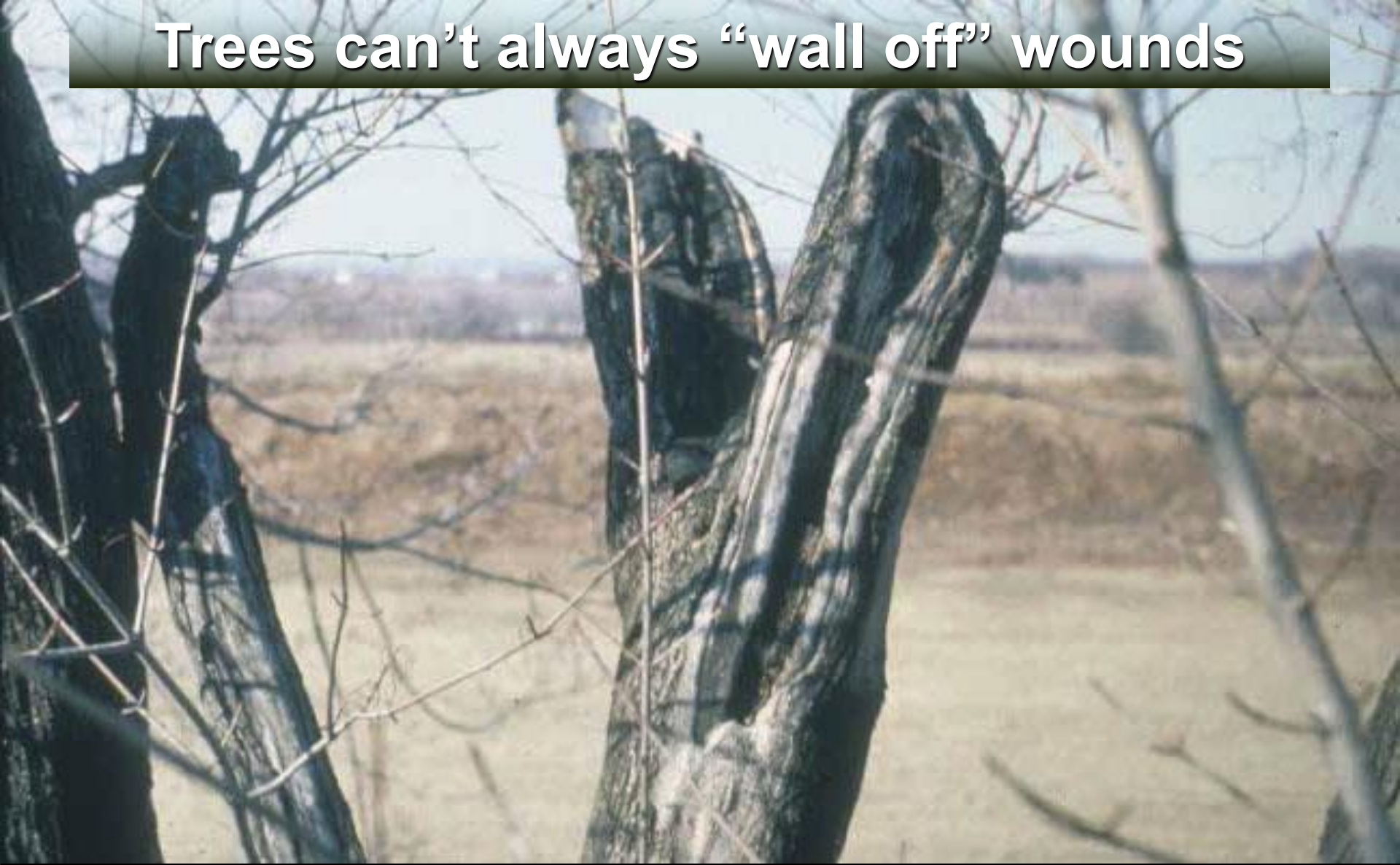
A topped tree is vulnerable



Topping causes decay

Few trees can “wall off” the multiple and severe wounds created by topping. As a result, the exposed wood tissues are likely to decay.

Trees can't always "wall off" wounds



Topping can lead to sun damage

Trees need their leaves to protect the bark from high levels of light and heat.

Branches can die from sun damage



Topping increases the risk of damage



Sprouts that form right at the cut are often weakly attached and increase the risk of damage to property and people.

New shoots can be unstable



Topping disfigures trees



Topping destroys the natural form of a tree.

Topped trees lose their natural form



Topping is expensive

Topping is a high-maintenance pruning practice, with hidden costs.

Hidden costs to topping



Alternatives to topping



Using proper pruning techniques

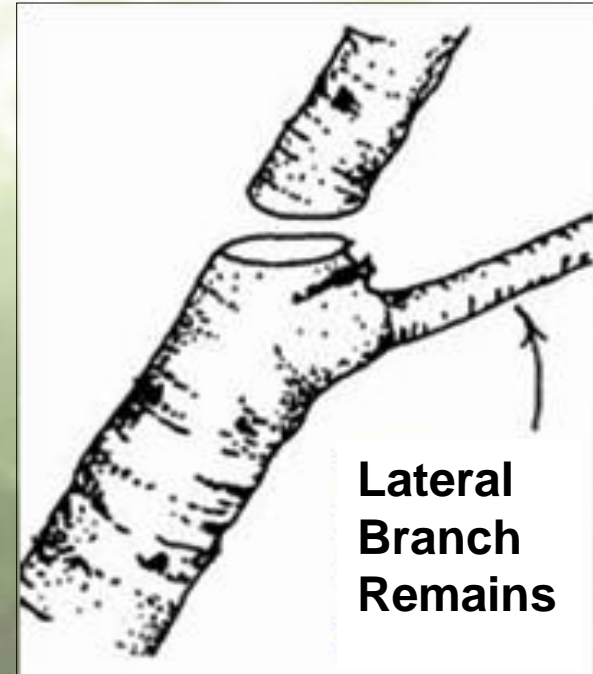


The best location to make a cut



**Proper
Placement
of Final Cut**

Rule of thumb



Cut back to a lateral branch that is at least one-third the diameter of the limb being removed.

Best methods for branch reduction



Hire a Certified Arborist

Professional arborists can determine the type of pruning necessary to improve the health, appearance, and safety of your trees.

Avoid the dangers of pruning



Enjoy your tree



To learn more about
why topping hurts trees

Visit us at

www.treesaregood.org

International Society of Arboriculture