



When done properly, pruning has many varied benefits.

DEFINITION:

Removing all or parts of selected branches from trees and shrubs.

SCOPE:

This practice applies on the following conditions:

- On crop trees of high-value species (e.g., trees grown for select lumber, veneer, or Christmas trees);
- On trees where removing all or parts of branches enhances the beauty and/or safety of an area;
- Where removal of lower limbs from all or part of the trees/shrubs enhances the recreational use of the area;
- On trees/shrubs to remove dead, broken, or diseased portions of the woody plant.

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

Tree/shrub pruning is used concurrently with other practices as part of a conservation management system. For example, tree/shrub pruning shall be done in conjunction with FOTG practice standard 666- Forest Stand Improvement to ensure trees/shrubs are properly spaced apart.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

Reinspection and re pruning as needed for the prescribed purposes.

TREE/SHRUB PRUNING - SPECIFICATION

LANDOWNER _____

FIELDS _____

ACRES _____

LEGAL LOCATION: _____

PURPOSE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- Improve the intended function of the plant.
- Improve appearance and health of trees or shrubs.
- Improve the quality of the wood product and trees/shrubs.
- Reduce a safety hazard.
- Improve recreational value of the area.

PRUNING TECHNIQUES

Prune trees/shrubs according to the following steps:

1. Locate the branch bark ridge.
2. Find A (outside edge of branch bark ridge).
3. Find B (swelling where branch meets branch collar).

If B is difficult to determine, draw a perpendicular line from A. The angle XAC is equal to the angle XAB (See figure 1). Stub the branch to be pruned using a first cut from below and a second cut from above.

4. Make the final cut on line AB.
5. Do not cut behind the branch bark ridge.
6. Do not leave stubs.
7. Do not cut into the branch collar.

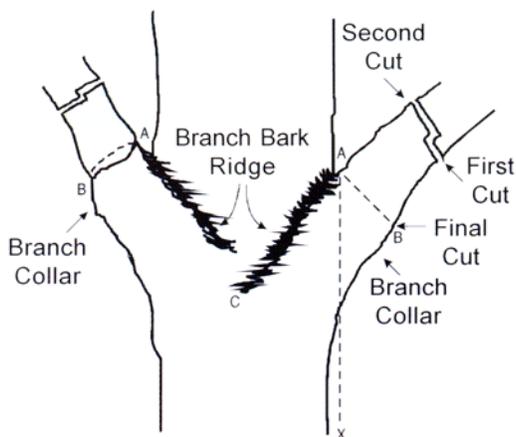


FIGURE 1 — HARDWOOD PRUNING

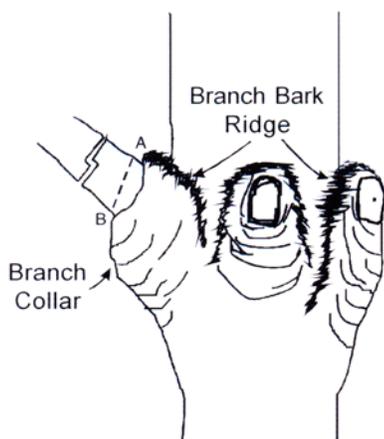


FIGURE 2 — CONIFER PRUNING



When pruning conifers, make the cut flush with the tree trunk.

WOOD PRODUCT SPECIFICATION - LUMBER/VENEER

Native species in order of priority for pruning are:

1. Ponderosa pine
 2. Lodge pole pine, 15 to 25 years old
 3. Western larch
 4. Douglas fir
- Prune 50 to 100 trees per acre that have a potentially high value.
 - Remove the lower branches to a height of 18 feet when tree diameters are 4 to 10 inches in diameter breast height (DBH).
 - Do not remove over 1/3 of the live crown in any one operation.
 - Pruning shall be done during the dormant season before new growth starts.

CHRISTMAS TREE SPECIFICATIONS - SHEARING

- Begin shearing when trees are 3 to 5 years old. Continue shearing, usually every other year, until trees are marketed.
- The best period for shearing is:
 - Pine** – July through August
 - Spruces and Firs** – November through March
- Side shearing should be done to produce a taper of about 40 to 70 percent.
- Taper is the base width in relation to the height.
- Cut the leader as necessary to control height growth to about 8 to 12 inches.
- Shear above a bud at a 45-degree angle to the stem.
- Basal pruning should be done to form a handle to assist in handling the tree when harvested.



Shearing Christmas trees for shape.

APPEARANCE AND HEALTH SPECIFICATION

- Pruning shall be done during the dormant season before new growth starts.
- Remove dead and diseased branches.
- Sanitize pruning tools between each cut when pruning fungal disease infections.
- Do not remove any more than 1/3 of the live crown in any one operation.
- Prune shrubs to:
 1. Improve their shape without changing their natural form;
 2. Stimulate blooming and improve growth; and
 3. Eliminate disease or insect infested branches.



This branch, with a gall, should be pruned for a healthier tree.

