

Tree/Shrub Pruning

Maine Conservation Practice Job Sheet

660



Definition

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

Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to improve the appearance of trees or shrubs, e.g., ornamental plants and Christmas trees, improve the quality of wood products, and improve the production of plant products, e.g., nuts, fruits, boughs and tips. It also may reduce fire and/or safety hazards, improve the growth and vigor of understory plants, and adjust the foliage and branching density for other specific intents, such as wind and snow control, noise abatement, access control, and visual screens.

Where used

This practice is used on a variety of land areas, including tree and shrub-covered areas used for recreation, production of non-timber and timber crops, and screens. Not for use in low-bush blueberry land.

Operation and maintenance

Periodically inspect plant condition and take corrective actions as necessary, e.g., additional pruning, pest management, nutrient management, and forest stand improvement.

Considerations

The pruning and shearing method and timing will match the limitations of the site and soils, achieve purposes for the specific tree or shrub species, and will be conducted in a safe and efficient manner. Pruning or shearing will not adversely reduce the growth and vigor of the tree or shrub for the intended purpose. Debris and vegetative material left on the site after treatment will not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard or interfere with the intended purpose and other management activities.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice, including pre-activity permits, permissions, or notifications.

Time pruning and shearing to least disturb seasonal wildlife activities. Disinfect pruning and shearing tools as needed to prevent the spread of pathogens. Review the estimated cost and projected economic benefits of the project before starting pruning and shearing projects. To maintain plant growth and sustained vigor, pruning and shearing may be done in two or more timed intervals. Time the pruning and shearing to minimize potential damage to the tree bole and stems.

Please Note: In forestland, for the purpose of improving the quality of wood products, a current Forest Management Plan, completed by a Licensed NRCS Forestry/Agroforestry Technical Service Provider (TSP) is required for this practice. When implementing this practice for that purpose, you may want to use a Registered NRCS Forestry/Agroforestry TSP for technical assistance.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the job sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the ME NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and specification guide for Tree/Shrub Pruning, Code 660 for specific requirements.

<i>For:</i>	<i>Farm #:</i>
<i>Field(s):</i>	<i>Tract #:</i>
<i>Designed By</i> <i>Lic. #:</i>	<i>Approved By:</i> <i>Lic. #:</i>
<i>Drawing No(s):</i>	<i>Signature:</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

Purpose (check all that apply)	
Improve the appearance of trees or shrubs	Air quality protection
Improve the quality of wood products	Reduce fire and/or safety hazards
Improve the production of plant products	Improve the growth and vigor of understory plants
Improve health and vigor of woody plants	Adjust the foliage and branching density or rooting length for other specific intents, such as wind and snow control, noise abatement, access control, and visual screens and managing competition

Project site general soil moisture regime is ___Dry ___Moist ___Wet or poorly-drained
 Tree/Shrub pruning will be done during the following time period (specify dates): _____ to _____.

Detailed Pruning Specifications - Refer to ME Code 660, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Standard and Specification Guide					
Field/Stand	Ac	No	Plant Species (common name)	Reason for Pruning	Remarks

Method of Debris Disposal (Include information on salable or usable products):

Special Instructions (Other values and considerations):

Installation shall be in accordance with the specified drawings, specifications, and special requirements. No changes are to be made in the drawings or specifications without prior approval of Gerald Barnes at (207)990-9580. Questions regarding the tree/shrub pruning should be directed to Gerald Barnes at (207)990-95800.

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