

Tree/Shrub Pruning

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

AK-660



Definition

The removal of all or part of selected branches, leaders or roots from trees and shrubs.

Purpose

- Improve the appearance of trees or shrubs, e.g., ornamental plants and Christmas trees.
- Improve the quality of wood products.
- Improve the production of plant products, e.g., nuts, fruits, boughs and tips.
- Reduce fire and/or safety hazards.

- Improve the growth and vigor of understory 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.
- Improve health and vigor of woody plants e.g. disease, insect and injury management.

Where Used

This practice applies on any area with trees or shrubs.

Criteria

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

The pruning and shearing method and timing will match the limitations of the site, soils and plants and minimize damage to the residual plant bole/stems and limbs. For a high degree of removal of crown foliage, pruning and shearing shall be done in two or more timed intervals to minimize plant stress.

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.

Burning of removed vegetation shall follow the criteria and considerations listed in the Prescribed Burning (338).

Ground vegetation and/or conditions must be left in a manner to address erosion and other natural resource concerns to acceptable levels.

Disinfect pruning and shearing tools to minimize the spread of pathogens.

Conservation/Forest Management Planning for Pruning Practice

- A. Identify purpose/ goal for pruning practice
- B. Establish tree pruning specification.
 - Desired condition.
 - height of pruning level
 - final desired form
- C. Selection of which trees to treat
 - Species
 - Size
 - Spacing
 - Number per acre.
- D. Process on how and who will select trees to be pruned.

Successful Practice Implementation

Trees and shrubs will quickly recover from pruning actions and will meet the intent/purpose of the practice implementation.

Pruning Considerations

Pruning and shearing should be timed to minimize disturbance to seasonal wildlife activities.

Review the estimated cost and projected economic benefits of the project before starting a pruning or shearing project.

Branches removed may be used for other products.

Guidelines for Operation and Maintenance

Periodically inspect plant condition and do additional pruning if needed.

Tree / Shrub Pruning

Land user:	Field:
Assisted by:	Date:

PURPOSE (Check all that apply)			
Improve the appearance of trees or shrubs, e.g., ornamental plants and Christmas trees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve the growth and vigor of understory plants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the quality of wood products.	<input type="checkbox"/>	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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce fire and/or safety hazards.	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Improve the production of plant products, e.g., nuts, fruits, boughs and tips.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve health and vigor of woody plants e.g. disease, insect and injury management	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pruning Specifications

Species of trees / shrubs to be pruned _____

Height to which trees will be pruned _____ Form trees/shrub will be shaped to _____

Pruning Specifications (continued)

Number of trees per acre that will be pruned _____

Total number of acres served in the practice _____

Total or estimated number trees to be pruned _____

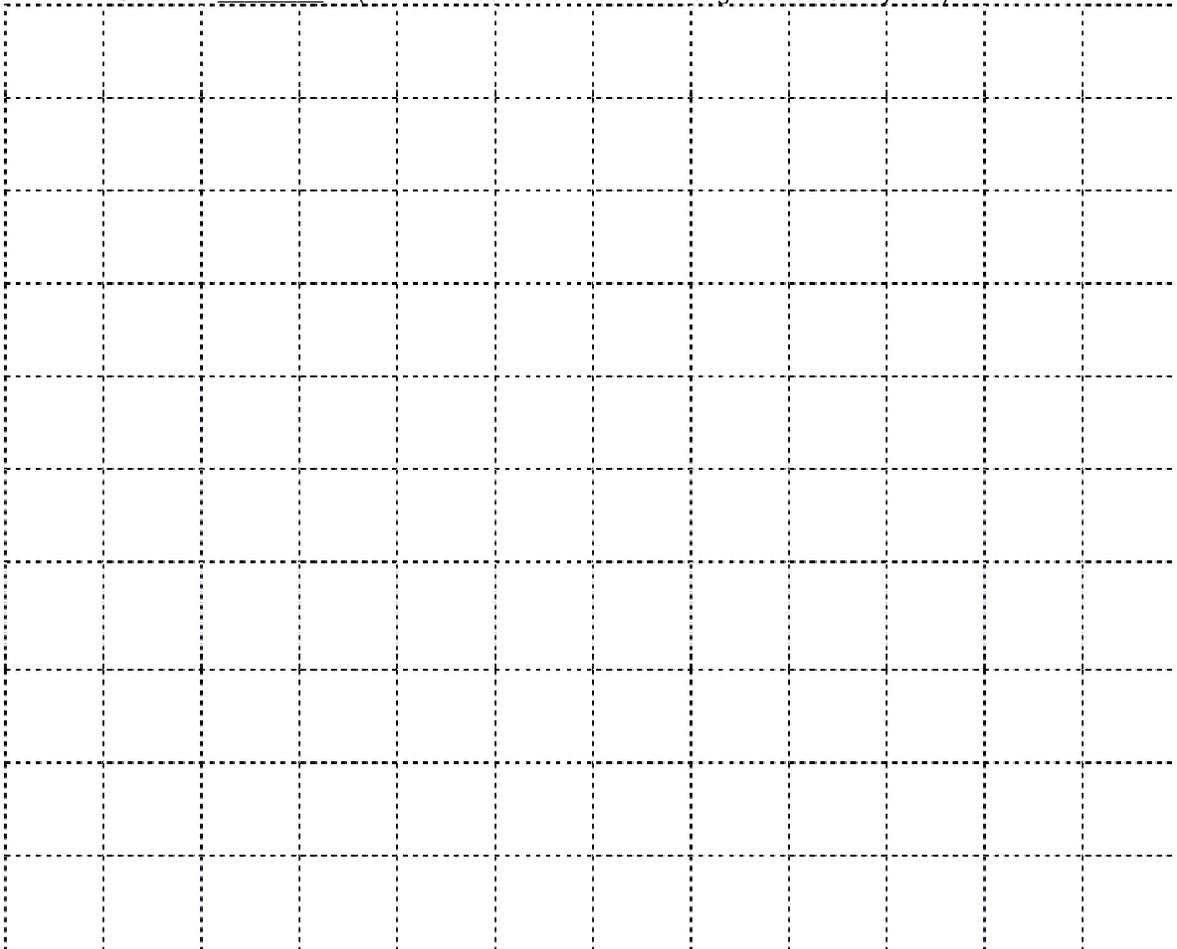
Spacing and/or distribution criteria for pruned trees and shrubs. _____

Who will select and on what basis will trees be selected for pruning _____

Forest Pruning – Job Sketch

Draw or sketch the field or the tree/shrub, showing any sensitive areas and required setback zones, tree/shrub height of pruning or desired shapes. Inside each sketched field, enter total field acres and net application acres. Other relevant information, such as complementary practices or adjacent field or tract conditions may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Perform the following operations and maintenance:
Periodically inspect plant condition and do additional pruning if needed
Additional specifications and notes:

This plan was developed based on the requirements of the current NRCS standard and any applicable Federal, state, or local regulations or policies. Changes in any of these regulations may necessitate a revision of the plan.

Design Certification

I certify that the above design meets NRCS standards and specifications:

Permits required ? Yes _____ No _____ (attach copy if applicable)

Acres Planned _____ Total Trees Pruned Planned _____

Planner _____ Date _____

I have reviewed this plan and agree to install as designed.

Cooperator _____ Date _____

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APPLICATION / CERTIFICATION

Acres Planned _____ **Acres Applied** _____

Total Trees Pruned Planned _____ **Total Trees Pruned Applied** _____

Program _____ **Contract #** _____

I certify that the above installation meets NRCS standards and specifications indicated in the attached AK-660 Job sheet:

YES

No

Planner _____ **Date** _____

Recommendations and Comments:

Operation & Maintenance

Periodic monitoring of this practice is essential to determine 1) if production and ecological goals are being met, 2) if facilitating practices are installed, maintained, and adequate, and 3) if modifications are needed.