

Prune for STRENGTH by removing:

- Co-dominant leaders or multiple trunks to encourage the growth of one main trunk
- Injured, diseased and dead branches
- Rubbing branches

Prune for FORM by removing:

- Excess lateral branches to produce a ladder effect at maturity
- Water sprouts and root suckers
- Limbs that turn inward, cross or extend

Because trees are vital to the environmental health of our community, they are protected by ordinance under the Town of Jupiter Code, Chapter 23-87 entitled, "Landscape Maintenance" and Chapter 26 entitled, "Vegetation and Environmental Preservation". These ordinances set minimum standards for tree pruning and set restrictions on tree removal. The Town of Jupiter requires that all tree pruning be performed in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standard for Tree Care Operations. This ordinance will help to ensure that trees are properly pruned for strength and structure by requiring a minimum level of competency for tree trimming operations. This is good for the long term health of the trees and for the overall health and welfare of the community. For more information, contact the Natural Resources Coordinator by telephone at 561-741-2446 or by email at barrett@jupiter.fl.us



TOWN OF JUPITER

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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Broward County
Department of Natural Resource Protection
Biological Resources Division



PROPER TREE PRUNING

Proper Tree Pruning

Pruning of tree limbs on a regularly scheduled basis will improve tree health, control growth, and enhance fruiting, flowering and appearance.

Trees should be pruned for the first time 2 to 5 years after planting, then every 5 to 7 years thereafter. Pruning is best done from winter to early spring (before new growth starts) because wounds close quickly as growth starts in the spring and insect and disease infestations are less likely.

Step back and look at the tree to be pruned. Try to imagine what it will look like when it is going to be larger, and remember that tree limbs will increase in diameter and lengthen but will not move upward on the trunk as the tree grows.



Proper pruning cuts

In order to make a proper pruning cut, you must first locate the branch collar.

The branch collar is an extension of the main stem of the tree where the branch joins the main trunk. Cutting into the branch collar allows decay to expand into the main trunk of the tree.

- Always make pruning cuts on the outside of the branch collar
- Do not leave branch stubs, living or dead
- Use sharp hand tools designed for pruning and wear safety equipment
- Do not paint wounds with pruning paint

It does not prevent decay and may interfere with wound closure

- Homeowners should never climb a tree to

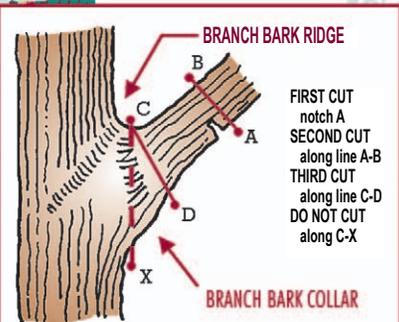
prune limbs or attempt to prune limbs near overhead power lines

- Never remove more than 1/4 of the live crown in a single growing season
- Pruning should result in an even distribution of branches on individual limbs and throughout the crown.

Pruning of trees prior to storms and hurricanes

Prune for strength and form (see back cover).

Topping a large tree causes excessive sprouting of weakly attached new branches, and also increases wind resistance by creating denser branching patterns. Excessive lifting creates a condition where trees become top-heavy. Both of these methods of pruning increase the chances of wind damage in the long run.

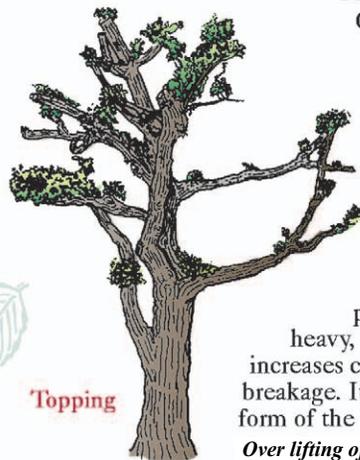


PROPER PRUNING PRINCIPLES

Topping/Hatracking

Topping is a type of pruning where most of the canopy is removed from a tree, leaving mostly branch stubs. Topping initiates decay in the trunk and main branches and attracts wood boring insects. Never top a tree or allow anyone to top one of your trees. Topping is equivalent to butchering a tree. Competent arborists do not top trees.

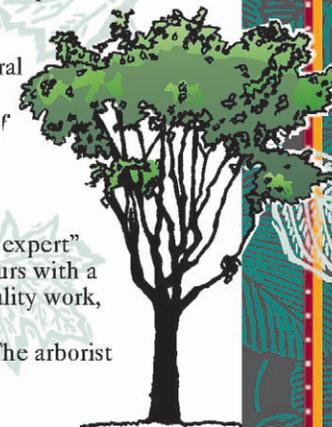
Topping is a violation of Town of Jupiter ordinances!



Excessive Lifting

Lifting trees is a common pruning practice where the lower branches of the tree are removed to provide clearance for cars, structures, etc. Over lifting, or excessive thinning of trees, is a poor pruning practice. This type of pruning causes trees to be top heavy, reduces trunk taper and increases chances of branch breakage. It also disfigures the natural form of the tree.

Over lifting of trees is a violation of Town of Jupiter ordinances!



Choosing a Tree Service/Arborist

Homeowners who rush to accept the service of a "tree expert" are frequently taken advantage of by fly-by-night amateurs with a pickup truck and chainsaw. The result of this is poor quality work, and greater long term costs.

The best option is to choose a tree care professional. The arborist (tree care professional) you will want to hire should:

- have an occupational license and a bonafide business in the community
- be listed in the telephone directory "yellow pages" commonly under tree service
- be fully insured for property damage, personal liability and worker compensation
- and be a member of a professional association such as the National Arborist Association, the Florida Arborist Association, the International Society of Arboriculture, or the American Society of Consulting Arborists.