

Subject: Pruning Operations

Approved: Patrick Bohlen

PROCEDURE: **Pruning**
INTENDED AUDIENCE: LNR personnel performing pruning operations
PURPOSE: To train LNR person on the correct usage of pruning shears and loppers and on proper pruning technique.

- I. Knowledge** – Before performing pruning operations, employee should have the ability of identifying the plant to be pruned and be familiar with the industry pruning standards for the plant.
- II. Safety** – At a minimum, follow the safety requirements for hand tools. It is the employee’s responsibility to determine if added Personal Protective Equipment is needed and therefore must consult with their Supervisor prior to starting the task.
- III. Proper Outcome** – Pruning should promote growth and enhance plant growth.
- IV. Hand Pruning Operation**
 - a. Identify the plant.

Note: Industry standards for pruning the plant should be followed. It is the employee’s responsibility to inform the supervisor if more training is needed on identifying or pruning the plant.
 - In general:
 - b. Touching or crossing branches should be removed.
 - c. Some plants should have last year’s seed/flower pod removed.
 - d. Trees should have competing leaders subjugated or removed.
- V. Pruning/Trimming With Power Equipment or Manual Equipment**
 - a. Wear appropriate protective equipment (e.g. chaps, leather gloves, hearing protection, eye protection).
 - b. Check fluids (mixed gas and oil) and add as needed.
 - c. Prime line trimmer or edger.
 - d. Turn choke to “ON” position.

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- e. Pull start cord until you hear ignition.
- f. Turn choke to the “OFF” position once ignition is engaged.
- g. Re-pull starter chord to start line trimmer or edger.
- h. Start equipment and if equipment is operating properly, proceed to work area.

Note: If at any time equipment is not working properly, attach a 3x6 tag from the LNR shop area on hand held equipment with a short explanation the problem. When the repair is complete, the hedge trimmer will be staged outside the LNR shop door for pick up.

- e. Pick a starting point and prune your way around the plant.
- f. If working on trees, before dropping branches, make sure drop area is clear of all people and equipment
- g. When pruning is complete inspect pruners, loppers or trimmer and if equipment needs repairs or sharpened, take to the shop mechanics for appropriate action.
- h. If equipment does not need repaired or sharpened, clean cutting edges with disinfectant to avoid transfer of disease, and secure for the next use.
- i. Police all trimmings and dispose of in the proper designated area.