

**Subject: Pruning - Bird of Paradise**

Approved: Patrick Bohlen

PROCEDURE:

**Pruning – Bird of Paradise**

INTENDED  
AUDIENCE:

LNR personnel pruning Bird of Paradise planted throughout campus.

PURPOSE:

To train LNR person on the correct technique to prune and maintain Bird of Paradise.

**I. Knowledge –**

Before pruning Bird of Paradise, employee should have the ability of identifying the plant to be pruned and be familiar with the industry pruning standards for the plant. Employees should understand the criteria to determine if the Bird of Paradise needs to be thinned or trimmed.

**II. Safety –**

- a. Check for any biting or stinging insect that might be in area to be pruned. If wasp/ants are a problem let the supervisor know.
- b. Follow the safety requirements for hand tools - specifically hand pruners, loppers and pruning saw.

**Note:** Pruning saw will only be used on Giant Bird of Paradise, also known as grey or white Bird of Paradise.

- c. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
  - i. Gloves are (recommended)
  - ii. Long sleeve shirt (recommended)
  - iii. LNR Safety Shoes (required)
  - iv. 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 plant health, encourage the growth and flowering aesthetics of the plant, and improve the appearance of the surrounding area.

**Subject: Pruning - Bird of Paradise**

Approved: Patrick Bohlen

#### IV. Steps for Trimming or Thinning Bird of Paradise

- a. Identify the plant and assess if the Bird of Paradise will need trimmed or thinned out.

**Note:** When performing the assessment, consider if the plant has outgrown the planting area, or impeding a walkway, or leaning on a building, etc.

- b. Remove flower stalks after blooming.

**Note:** All cuts, stalk removal, or new growth made to the Bird of Paradise should be made as close to the ground (or main stalk) as possible.

- c. Cut out dead leave as needed to enhance the appearance of the plant and the surrounding area.
- d. Retain any leaves with more than 50% green tissue.

**CAUTION:** Bird of Paradise should never be thinned, trimmed or clipped out using hedge shears. Using hedge shears can damage the plant and cause disease.

- e. When pruning, disinfect pruners, loppers, or pruning saw between plants to prevent disease.
- f. When pruning operations are complete, clean the cutting edges of the pruners, loppers or pruning saw with disinfectant to avoid transfer of disease, and secure for the next use.
- g. Police all trimmings and dispose of in the proper designated area.

#### V. Steps for Trimming or Thinning a Giant Bird of Paradise

**Subject: Pruning - Bird of Paradise**

Approved: Patrick Bohlen

- a. Identify the plant and assess if the Bird of Paradise will need trimmed or thinned out.

**Note:** When performing the assessment, consider if the plant has outgrown the planting area, or impeding a walkway, or leaning on a building, etc.

- b. To thin out the Giant Bird of Paradise, remove flower stalks after blooming as close to the ground as possible as the remaining stalk will not recover.

**Note:** All cuts, stalk removal, or new growth made to the Giant Bird of Paradise should be made as close to the ground (or main stalk) as possible.

- c. Trim the Giant Bird of Paradise by removing clumps of new growth from the base of the plant.

**Note:** If a new growth stalk appears to enhance the plant grouping, consult with your supervisor for approval to let it grow.

**CAUTION:** Bird of Paradise should never be thinned, trimmed or clipped out using hedge shears. Using hedge shears can damage the plant and cause disease.

- d. Disinfect pruners, loppers, or pruning saw between plants to prevent disease.
- e. When pruning operations are complete, clean the cutting edges of the pruners, loppers or pruning saw with disinfectant to avoid transfer of disease, and secure for the next use.
- f. Police all trimmings and dispose of in the proper designated area.