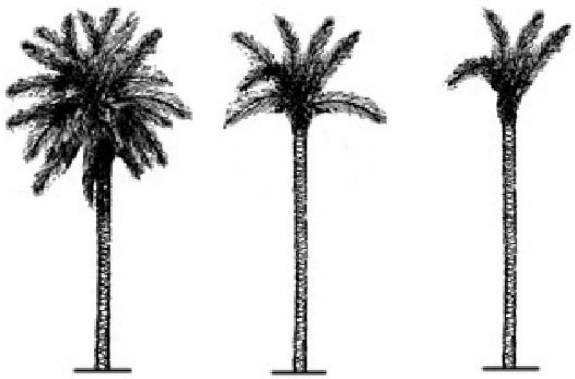
Palm Pruning Requirements

1. No More than one third of fronds shall be removed.
2. No pruning above the horizon line, except for dead or diseased fronds.

Figure 7.E.6.B - Palm Pruning Guidelines



Before Pruning | After Proper Pruning | After Excessive Pruning

To Avoid Violations

Prune a tree correctly and SAVE A TREE for tomorrow...

Published January 2014
Palm Beach County
Zoning Division
Landscape Section

Palm Beach County

Board of County Commissioners

Contact Information

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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PALM BEACH COUNTY PRUNING GUIDELINES

Published January 2014

Purpose and Intent of Pruning Regulations

- To remove undesirable growth that distracts from the balance of symmetry of the plant.
- To remove diseased, dead, or abnormal plant tissue.
- To stimulate flowering and/or fruit production of old plants.
- To develop a specific plant form, which is approved by the Zoning Division, prior to pruning.
- To improve appearance and health of a plant.
- To prevent personal injury or property damage.
- To encourage young plants to produce stronger and more vigorous trees.
- To rejuvenate old trees and shrubs.

Pruning Policy

Articles 7.E.6.A of the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC) establishes acceptable practices for pruning trees in unincorporated Palm Beach County (PBC). Failure to follow these regulations is a violation of the ULDC and will be reviewed under the enforcement provisions in Article 7.H.3.

Hatracked trees will be treated as a violation that is irreversible or irreparable because the violation cannot be corrected or repaired by the property owner.

Type 1 Violation: Tree(s) are damaged to the extent they will never regrow a natural canopy.

Type 2 Violation: Tree(s) are damaged to the extent they will not regrow a natural canopy without proper pruning.

Examples of Trees Pruned in Accordance with PBC Regulations Residential

The above examples demonstrate where the proper tree was used in the landscape design. The trees have been pruned correctly to maintain the natural canopy of the tree.
The Palm Beach County Pruning Regulations encourage a property owner to establish a pruning program that ensures the trees are permitted to grow to their natural form.
It is important when installing trees in the landscape to be familiar with the habit and growth rate of the trees. Planting the right trees in the right environment will avoid unnecessary illegal pruning in the future. Large shade trees need open space for their canopy to spread when limited open space is available. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Office, or if you need help selecting a tree prior to planting, please access the ezInfo Link on the Palm Beach County - Zoning Division Web page at: www.pbcgov.org/pzb/zoning/

Examples of Trees Pruned in Accordance with PBC Regulations Non - Residential

Examples of Illegal Pruning Practices (Type 1)

Trees will never regrow a natural canopy and must be removed and replaced with several new trees.

Examples of Illegal Pruning Practices (Type 2)