

Locks Landing Hardwood Tree Pruning Standards

(Ver.2.12.15.9)

Pruning. Pruning shall be permitted to allow for *healthy* uniform growth, and to promote structural, aesthetic and safety considerations. Trees which cause a conflict with views, signage or lighting shall not be pruned more than the maximum allowed. All permitted pruning shall be conducted in accordance with acceptable horticultural practices and the latest standards of the National Arborist Association.

a. Pruning of a tree canopy may be permitted provided that the vegetative removal conforms to the standards of crown reduction, crown cleaning, crown thinning, crown raising, vista pruning, and crown restoration pruning techniques. All pruning shall comply with the American National Standards Institute, ANSI 300=1995 (Tree, Shrub and other Woody Plant Maintenance), as amended. The crown of a tree required by this code or condition of approval shall not be reduced below the minimum spread or height requirements of Article 4.15 or specific Ord 494. The homeowner of a tree which is pruned in excess of these requirements shall be fined and/or required to replace it with a tree that meets the minimum requirements stated in the Locks Landing documents.

b. If other than the mature height and spread is desired for any required tree, the size and shape shall be indicated on an approved landscape plan. Shaping of a tree shall be considered if the tree is to be used as an accent,(excluding the two required oak "street" trees), focal point, or as part of an overall landscape design and does not compromise the health and safety issues of the species. A maintenance commitment shall be *clearly* outlined on the approved landscape plan to explain the care and upkeep of a shaped tree.

c. Tree topping (hatracking)(tipping) (lollipop) is prohibited and shall be defined as the cutting back of limbs to a point between branch collars/buds larger than one-two inch in diameter within the tree's crown. This activity causes tree stress, weakness, decay, sunburn, disease, insect infestation, weak new growth susceptible to wind damage, death, detroys natural form, and is prohibited by the County and the Locks Landing documents.

d. It is generally recommended that oaks not be trimmed from April through October since this will make them more susceptible to Oak Wilt disease.

Definitions:

The following list of terms and definitions are to assist with pruning terminology. Refer to the ANSI and U.S. Department of Agricultural for expanded definitions related to pruning.

Branch: A secondary shoot or stem arising from one of the main axes (i.e., trunk or leader) of a tree or woody plant. (ANSI A300-1995)

Crown: The leaves and branches of a tree or shrub; the upper portion of a tree from the lowest branch on the trunk to the top. (ANSI A300-1995)

Crown Cleaning: The removal of dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, low-vigor branches, and watersprouts from a tree's crown. (ANSI A300-1995)

Crown Raising: The removal of the lower branches of a tree in order to provide clearance. (ANSI A300-1995)

Crown Thinning: The selective removal of branches to increase light penetration and air movement, and to reduce weight. (ANSI A300-1995)

* **Flush Cuts** : Pruning cuts that originate inside the branch bark ridge or the branch collar, causing unnecessary injury to stem tissues.

Heading: Cutting a currently growing or one-year-old shoot back to a bud, or cutting an older branch or stem back to a stub or lateral branch not sufficiently large enough to assume the terminal role. Heading should rarely be used on mature trees. (ANSI A300-1995)

* **Pollarding:** The annual removal of all the previous year's growth, resulting in a flush of slender shoots and branches each spring.

Pruning: Removal of plant parts. (ANSI A300-1995)

Stub: An undesirable short length of a branch remaining after a break or incorrect pruning cut is made. (ANSI A300-1995)

* **Tipping:** A poor maintenance practice used to control the size of tree crowns; involves the cutting of branches at right angles leaving long stubs.

* **Topiary:** The pruning and training of a plant into a desired geometric or animal shape.

Tracing: Shaping a wound by removing loose bark from in and around a wound. (ANSI A300-1995)

Topping (Hatracking): The cutting back of limbs to a point between branch collars/buds larger than one inch in diameter within the tree's crown. (Sec. 7.3.H.4, ULDC)

*: Reference source: "How to Prune Trees", U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service(Tree Operations Manual),

Southeastern Area State and Private Forestry. FEMA pruning best practices, Industry Standard, ANSI A300-2001, University of Florida, Horticulture Dept

Landscaping which becomes damaged or diseased, or is dead as a result of tree topping as previously defined, shall be immediately replaced to comply with the Locks Landing Documents approved landscape plan and as stated in the PAMP or with the requirements of the County Land Use plan and Tree Protection Ordinance section to the greatest extent possible .