Utility Pruning of Trees

BP
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UTILITIES

Purpose of Power Point

- Why do electric utilities prune trees?
- General utility pruning basics

Why does Blooming Prairie prune trees?

Reasons for Pruning

1. Ensure Public Safety- utility vegetation maintenance reduces electric hazard risk to the public by:
   - Providing separation between wires and vegetation to eliminate potential electric shock
   - Reducing potential wildfire hazards from tree/wire conflicts
2. Provide Reliable Power
   - Reliability- Trees are among the most common causes of utility outages; this is especially true during storm events. BPPU is proactive and prunes trees BEFORE they pose a risk.
3. Comply with mandated clearance laws
4. Maintain Street Access

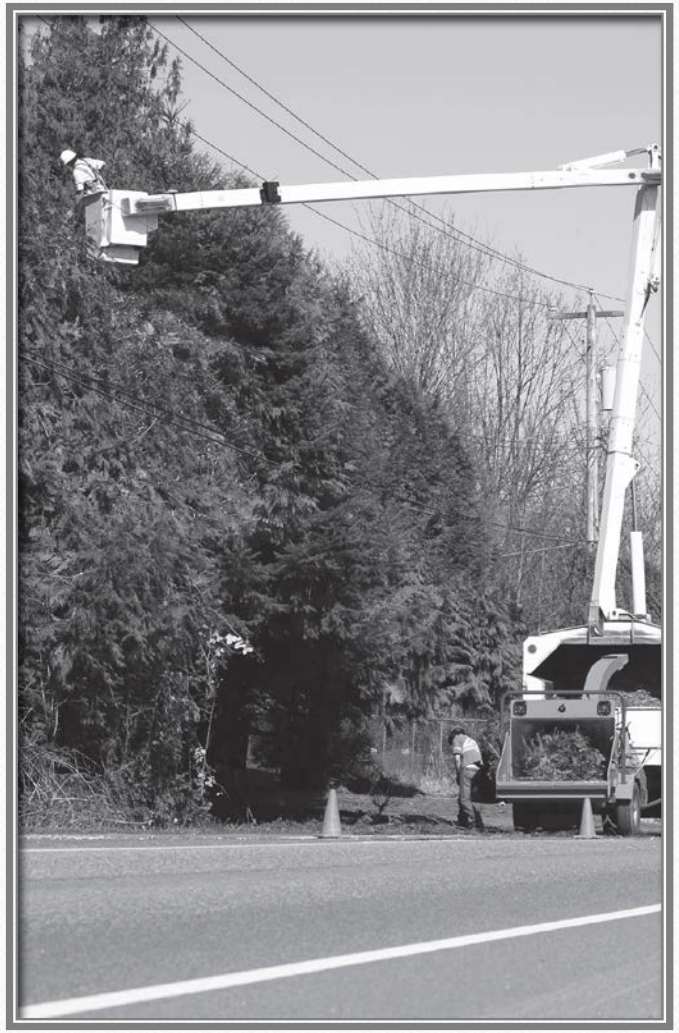
Large Limb Burning in primary line causing outages

Who will be performing work on my trees?

- Only qualified utility lineman who meet OSHA qualifications are legally permitted to work within 10 feet of powerlines
- DANGER- Homeowners should never hire a private tree contractor to work within 10 feet of powerlines or attempt to do the work themselves.
- Contact BPPU for information first

How Often will trees be pruned? Will I be notified of the tree pruning?

- BPPU currently prunes on a Case By Case Basis.
- Cycle intervals are mainly determined by:
  1. Expected growth rates
  2. Geographic area, resources, work load, objectives and species.
- It's possible BPPU will conduct pruning for maintenance purposes such as pole replacement.
- BPPU will attempt to contact property owners for when trimming will occur.



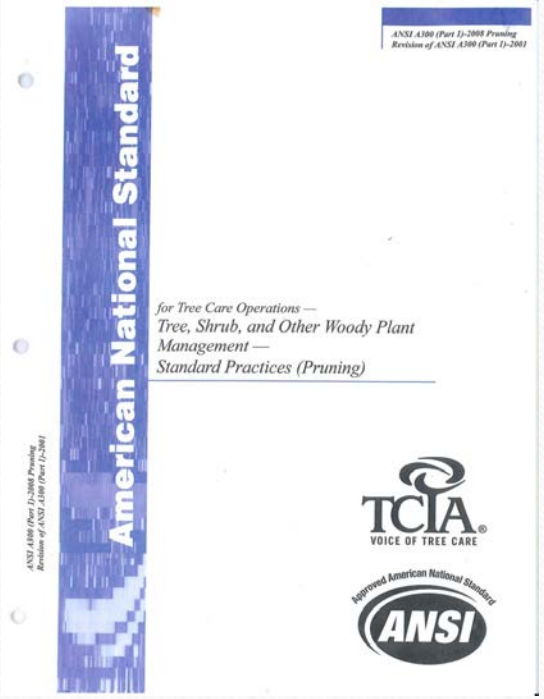
There are two basic principles of Utility Pruning

1. Directional Pruning
2. Proper Pruning Cuts

- Before we review the basics, let's talk about the ANSI A300 standards.

Utility Pruning Basics
How does BPPU prune trees

- BPPU follows the ANSI A300 guidelines for pruning trees
  - ANSI=American National Standards Institute
- These are pruning guidelines based on tree biology & research.
- These guidelines are endorsed by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).



ANSI A300 Basic Guidelines

- ANSI A300 - "Trees directly under and growing into utility spaces should be removed or pruned. Such pruning should be done by removing entire leaders or by removing branches that have laterals growing into the utility space."
- ANSI A300 - "Trees growing next to, into or toward utility spaces should be pruned by reducing branches to laterals (side branches) to direct growth away from the utility space."

1. Directional pruning

Directional pruning removes branches growing toward the powerlines while leaving those that are growing away. It is the most appropriate method for utility line clearance.

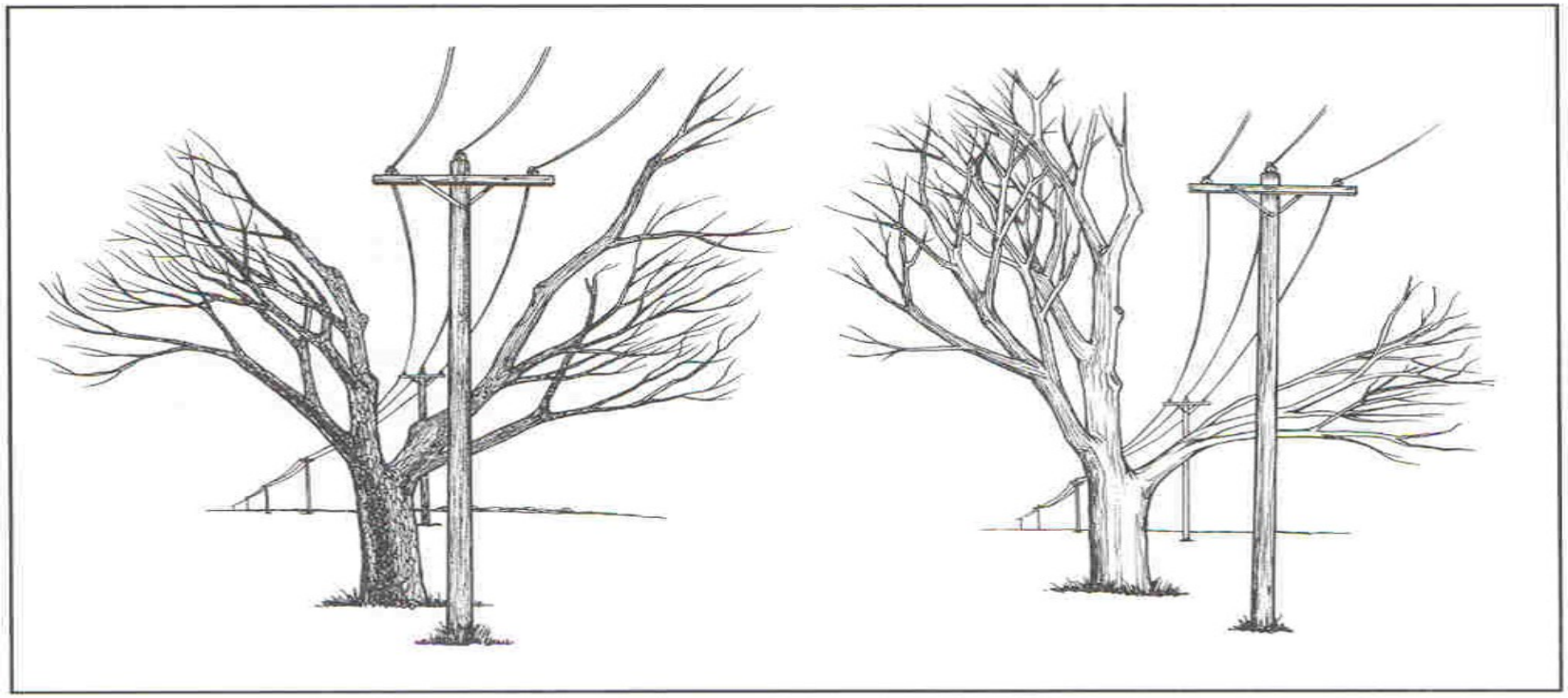
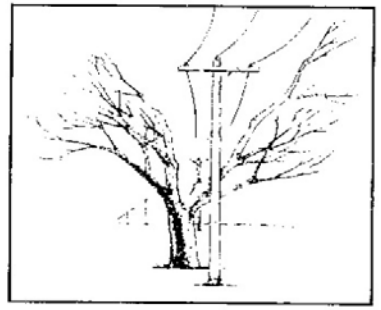


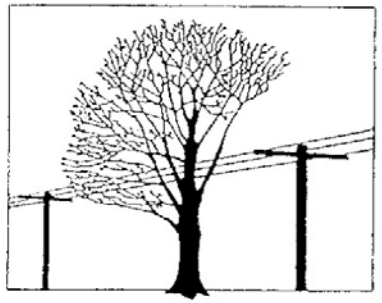
Figure 10. Directional pruning causes trees to assume different shapes depending on the location of utility facilities.

Examples of Directional Pruning

Examples of how directional pruning by utilities alter tree canopies

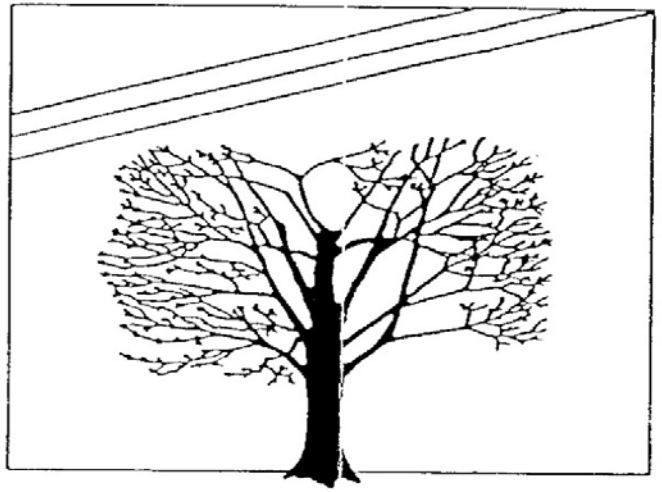


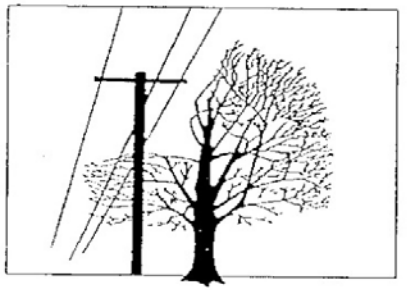
Through pruning

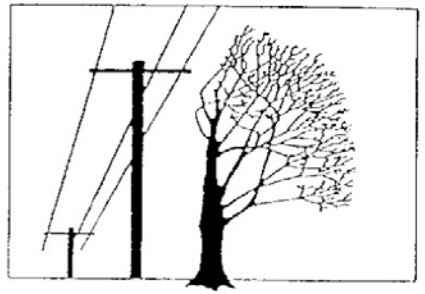


Under pruning

Top pruning



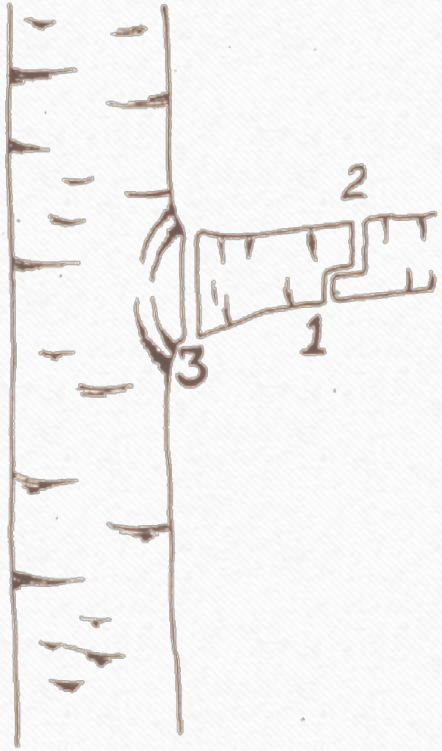




Side pruning: (top) examples of side pruning areas

DENTISTRY

3 cut method avoids stripping bark down the tree as seen in the photo



Purpose of Vegetation Management

- To provide safe and reliable electricity

- BPPU Priorities are:
  - Employee Safety
  - Public Safety
  - Customer Service

Video Links

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK1qBfFjzpM
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9A13Rqf8_xo

Thank You

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