

Pruning Specifications/Practices

Pruning Specifications for the City of San Marino

The following specifications shall be complied with in all cases unless written authorization is obtained from the City Arborist

Guidelines:

1. The contractor shall provide an English-speaking supervisor on site at all times that work is being performed in the City. The Supervisor will also be equipped with a cell phone and the number furnished to the City. The City will be able to reach this Supervisor at all time that work is being performed in the City.
2. The contractor will weekly furnish the City with a map of purposed work and daily advised the City of progress and location of work.
3. Work areas shall be left in a condition equal or better than that which existed prior to the commencement of forestry operations. All debris shall be cleaned up each day before the work crew leaves the site, unless permission is given by the City to do otherwise. All lawn areas shall be raked, all streets and sidewalks shall be swept, and all brush, branches, rocks or other debris shall be removed from the site.
4. Work will only be allowed on days when the City is open for business unless written authorization is obtained for work to occur on weekends or City holidays.
5. Any City-contracted tree company shall be required to have in their employment a full-time, permanent Certified Arborist, as accredited by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). This person shall be responsible for ensuring that the contractor's crews are performing work according to City specifications. All trees will be inspected by a Certified Arborist or Certified Tree Worker for hazardous conditions that include dead, diseased, dying, or weak limbs, or other defects that could be hazardous to human health, safety and welfare or property. This will include narrow crotches, included bark and decay of limbs or the main trunks of the tree. The City shall be notified of such conditions within 24 hours in writing. The Arborist shall inspect all trees for balance and in those cases where trees are severely unbalanced and in need of crown reduction, thinning, or other work to achieve a balanced tree, the City must

be notified. This work will then be performed by the contractor as part of the contract but will be required only in exceptional cases.

6. Residents will be notified one week in advance by mail of any large scale crown thinning project affecting a City tree located in front of their home.

Specifications:

1. No spurs will be allowed on living trees at anytime.
2. Pruning cuts shall be clean and smooth; leaving the bark at the edge of the cut firmly attached to the wood. A three-cut process, sometimes known as "jump-cutting", shall be used to remove larger limbs in order to avoid stripping or tearing of the bark, and to minimize unnecessary wounding.
3. Any vine plant growing on trees shall be removed at ground level.
4. Trees shall be pruned to remove all dead wood of 1" in diameter or greater. In addition all diseased, dying, structurally weak, decayed, or otherwise defective limbs 2" in diameter shall be removed.
5. When removing a dead branch, the final cut shall be made just outside the branch bark ridge and collar of live callus or woundwood tissue. If the collar has grown out along the branch stub, only the dead stub shall be removed; the live collar shall remain intact.
6. When removing a parent leader or limb to a lateral branch, the final cut shall be made as close to parallel as possible with the branch bark ridge and the lateral limb. The cut shall be made as close to the branch bark ridge as possible without cutting into it. Care shall be taken to avoid damaging the lateral limb when the final cut is made.
7. Remove the weaker or less desirable of crossed or rubbing branches. Such removal shall not leave large open spaces in the general outline of the tree.
8. If it is necessary to reduce the length of a branch, the final cut shall be made just beyond (without violating) the branch bark ridge of the branch being cut to. The remaining branch shall be no less than one third (1/3) the diameter of the branch being removed, and with enough foliage to assume the terminal role.

9. Final drop-crotch cuts shall be made outside the branch bark ridge on the main stem or lateral branch. The remaining branch shall be no smaller than one third (1/3) the diameter of the portion being removed. The removed portion shall be pruned out to direct the remaining growth away from conductors.

10. Palm trimming shall be achieved by removing all living and dead fronds that are initiated from the head of the palm tree with an angle greater than 30 degrees in relation to a horizontal plane at the head of the palm tree.

11. Fronds shall be severed close to the petiole base without damaging living trunk tissue.

12. Street and sidewalk clearance standards shall be achieved through crown raising. Crown raising is the removal of lower branches in order to provide clearance for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Only those branches that must be removed to achieve the established height clearance standard shall be pruned. All such cuts shall be pruned back to the nearest lateral found above the set minimum height standard. When possible trees shall be pruned in such a manner that at least one half (1/2) of the foliage will be on branches that originate in the lower two thirds of the tree. Similarly, branches should have even distribution of foliage along their lengths. This will ensure a well-formed, tapered structure and will uniformly distribute stress within the tree.

13. Over sidewalks limbs shall be raised to a minimum of 7 feet.

14. Over residential or collector streets tree limbs trees shall be pruned to obtain 13 feet of clearance over traffic lanes. Limbs may be allowed to grow from main stems at heights of not less than eight feet and gradually increase in height to 13 feet over traffic lanes.

15. Over arterial streets, tree limbs shall be pruned to obtain 14 feet of clearance over traffic lanes.

16. Visibility clearance for streetlights or signage shall be achieved through "windowing" through the foliage of a tree, rather than severely raising or reducing its crown. Only those branches that need to be removed to attain the visibility clearance desired shall be pruned. All such cuts shall be pruned back to the nearest lateral found away from the structure that is to be cleared.