

landscape industry
certified



LESSON #17: PRUNING
TIME FRAME: 2 HOURS



LANDSCAPE TECHNICIAN
BOOTCAMP



**NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
LANDSCAPE
PROFESSIONALS**



Landscape Technician Boot Camp

Lesson Title:

Pruning

Timeframe:

2 hours

**Outcomes
Expectations:**

After completing the training, the participant will be able to:

- Make proper pruning cuts using both hand and powered tools.
- Use pruning techniques for thinning, heading back, and rejuvenation.
- Deadhead flowers.
- Prune ornamental grasses.
- Select the right tool for the situation.
- Operate all tools and equipment in a safe and efficient manner.
- Sharpen blades/tools.

**Points of
Emphasis:**

After completing the training, the participant understand the importance and necessity for:

- Heading back
- Hedge width
- Rejuvenation
- Shearing
- Thinning
- Timing and bloom cycles

**Instructor
Qualifications:**

- The instructor will have experience in this activity and have skills sets acquired from being a Landscape Industry Certified Professional, an experienced crew leader or account manager, a department manager, or a professional landscape instructor.
- The instructor may also be a manufacturer's representative of the equipment being used, with full knowledge of its operation.
- The instructor will possess excellent communication skills.



Landscape Technician Boot Camp

Lesson Title:

Pruning

Section:

Administration

**Before Class
Procedures:**

LESSON PLAN

The instructor will review this lesson thoroughly prior to teaching the class.

SITE SELECTION AND PREPARATION

The instructor will perform the following tasks related to the site selection and its preparation:

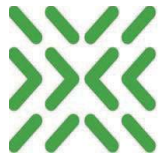
- Assemble equipment/tools prior to teaching the class.
- Determine the site for the outdoor session.
 - Flowers for deadheading.
 - Hedges for shearing/pruning.
 - Large limb to demonstrate thinning cuts with hand pruning saw.
 - Ornamental grasses.
 - Shrub in need of shearing.
 - Small limbs to demonstrate reduction cut with hand pruners.
 - Tree large enough to demonstrate large limb removal.
 - Tree tall enough to demonstrate the pole pruner technique.
 - Tree with cross rubbing branches, competing limbs, dead broken branches, etc.

NOTE: The site should allow for the full teaching of multiple pruning techniques, situations and conditions, utilizing all the tools available.

**Materials
Needed:**

The instructor will ensure all materials are available for the pruning session.

Materials	
Files, sharpening stones	Rags
Flagging tape	Trees with rubbing branches, competing limbs, dead broken branches, narrow crotches, water sprouts, etc.
Gasoline or batteries for powered equipment	Trees tall enough for teaching pole pruner techniques
Owner's/Operator's manual for powered equipment	WD 40



Landscape Technician Boot Camp

Lesson Title:

Pruning

Section:

Administration - continued

**Equipment
and Tools:**

The instructor will ensure all the equipment and tools are available for the pruning session.

Equipment and Tools	
Bow saw	Pole pruners
Fuel and batteries for the powered equipment	Pole saw
Hand pruners (bypass)	Powered hedge trimmers (gas or battery)
Hand pruners (saws)	Screwdriver set
Hedge shears	Wrench set
Loppers	

**PPE and
Safety:**

PPE and Safety Items

The instructor will ensure there is enough PPE for the outdoor session.

PPE Items	Safety Items
Appropriate work clothes and footwear	Eye wash
Ear protection	Fire extinguisher
Hard hat	First aid kit
Leather gloves	Red safety flag
Safety glasses	
Safety vest	
Trimmer chaps	



Landscape Technician Boot Camp

Lesson Title:

Pruning

Section:

Classroom – For Study

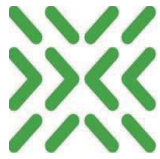
Reference
Guide:

The instructor will review the following material prior to conducting the session.

Topic	Manual
Aerator	Chapter 8
Basic Program Controller	Chapter 10
Chainsaw	Chapter 9
Edger and Trimmer	Chapter 8
Intermediate Walk-Behind Mower	Chapter 8
Irrigation Components and Principles	Chapter 10
Lateral Repair and Head Adjustment	Chapter 10
Ornamental Maintenance Horticulture Principles	Chapters 5–7
Plant Identification	Chapter 6
Power Blower	Chapter 8
Pruning	Chapter 7
Push Mower	Chapter 8
Riding Mower	Chapter 8
Tree Planting and Staking	Chapter 6
Turf Fertilizer	Chapters 4 and 5
Turfgrass Maintenance and Principles	Various chapters
Verticutter	Chapter 8

Questions
Evaluation:

- Why is shearing not always appropriate?
- Why is hand pruning preferred?
- Why is the timing of pruning important?
- When should I use the three-cut method?
- Why should a hedge be wider at the bottom than the top?
- Why should I use bypass hand pruners and not anvil hand pruners?
- What size cuts can be made with lopping shears?



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Lesson Title:

Pruning

Section:

Classroom – For Instruction

**Equipment
Statement:**

During the classroom session, the instructor will review the Equipment and Tool Statement.

- Each brand and model of equipment and/or tool is different. Make sure you are familiar with the equipment you are operating and the tools you are using. Refer to the operator's manual for all operating procedures.

**Preoperational
Procedures:**

During the classroom session, the instructor will introduce the preoperational procedures for the outdoor session along with tool usage and pruning techniques.

- The appropriate PPE for aerator operation, which includes work clothing and footwear.
 - Ear protection
 - Hard hat
 - Leather gloves
 - Safety glasses
 - Safety vest
 - Trimmer chaps
- The pruning tools for the outdoor session.
 - Floral scissors and snips, Grass shears
 - Hand pruner, Hedge shear
 - Lopper, Pole pruner
 - Tree pruner
- The pruning techniques for the outdoor session.
 - Heading, Pinching
 - Rejuvenation, Shearing
 - Thinning, Three-cut method
- How to direct new growth according to bud placement.
- Timing and how it affects growth and bloom cycles.
- Conifer pruning and how regrowth may not occur if procedures are not followed correctly.
- Hedges and their shapes



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Section:

Outdoor Procedures

**Instructor
Tips:**

During the outdoor lab, the instructor will select several participants to be on the working crew. The instructor will:

- Constantly talk to the entire class, teaching and reinforcing the proper techniques and methods being demonstrated by the participants.
- Ensure all instructional comments are constructive and teaching in nature.
- Periodically change crews to involve more participants.
- Refrain from negative comments.
- Stop the crew at any point and ask the other participants (non-working crew) for feedback on the quality of the Pruning session.
- Stop the learning segment if unsafe practices are being demonstrated.

**Learning
Segment:**

During the outdoor lab, the instructor will reinforce the classroom procedures for the outdoor session.

PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (PPE)

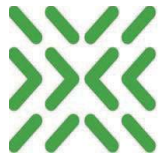
The working crew is instructed to put on their PPE, which includes work clothing and footwear.

- Ear protection
- Hard hat
- Leather gloves
- Safety glasses
- Safety vest
- Trimmer chaps

SITE INSPECTION

The working crew is instructed to perform a site inspection.

- Check the work area for obstacles, pedestrians, or hazards.
- Check the trees for bird's nests, squirrel's nests, hornet's nest, etc.
- Watch for other workers in the area.



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Lesson Title:

Pruning

Section:

Outdoor Procedures -
continued

**Learning
Segment:**

PRUNING TOOLS

Hand Pruners

The instructor will demonstrate how to use hand pruners. After the demonstration, the working crew will:

- Identify the shrub and hedge.
- Use the hand pruners to head back the shrub.
- Use the hand pruners to thin the shrub.
- Use the hand pruners to tighten up the hedge.

Hedge Sheers

The instructor will demonstrate how to use hedge sheers. After the demonstration, the working crew will:

- Use both hand and powered hedge sheers to prune/shear the shrubs, maintaining the proper height, width, and overall shape.

Loppers

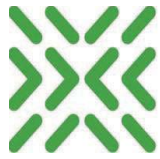
The instructor will demonstrate how to use the loppers. After the demonstration the working crew will:

- Identify the shrub for the job.
- Use the loppers to head back the shrub.
- Use the hand pruners to thin the shrub.

PRUNING METHODS

The instructor will demonstrate rejuvenation pruning. After the demonstration the working crew will:

- Deadhead flowers.
- Eliminate crossing branches.
- Eliminate dead, damaged, or diseased branches.
- Prune conifers.
- Prune larger tree limbs using the three-cut method.
- Prune perennial flowers.
- Prune ornamental grasses.



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Section:

Outdoor Procedures -
continued

**Learning
Segment:**

EQUIPMENT/TOOL MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

The working crew is instructed on how to perform equipment maintenance and storage according to the operator's manual.

Maintenance

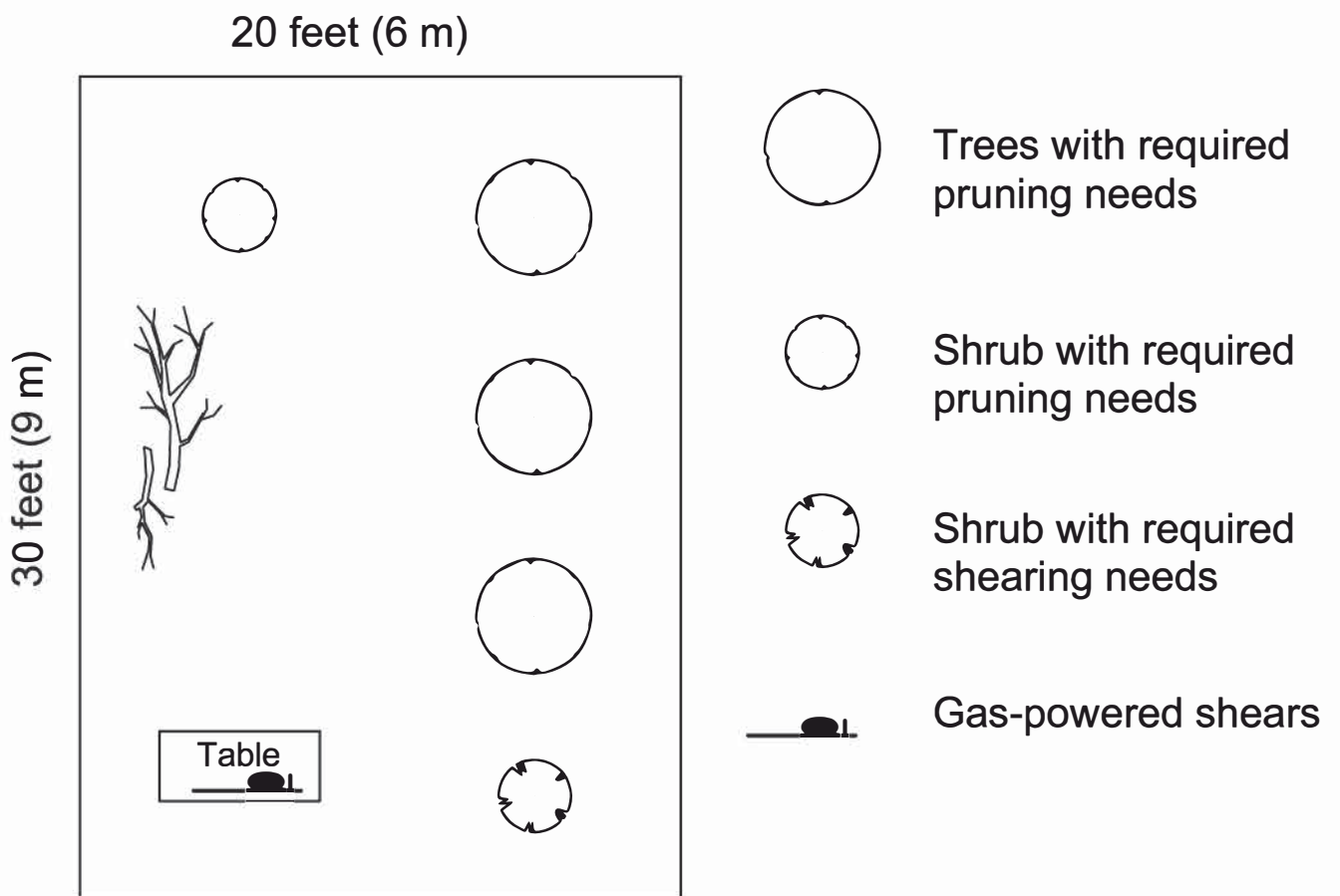
- Discuss/demonstrate the sharpening of tool blades.

Storage

- Clean tools and equipment as necessary.
- Return tools and equipment to proper storage.

PRUNING

Site Layout



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