



FBMG Help Desk
Question of the Week

My neighbors are having their live oak trees pruned, should I prune my oak trees now?

Answer: No ...

Pruning at the right time of year is vital.

If pruning is necessary oak trees are best pruned when the tree is least likely to be stressed.



Late winter or early spring are the more preferable times to prune. The least desirable time to prune is when new growth has already formed.

Proper Cutting Techniques Reduce Wounds

- Wounds especially new wounds provide opportunity for infection and insect entry.
- Clean and smooth cuts, along with good sharp pruning equipment are vital to encourage rapid healing of wounds
- *Improper pruning can cause poor growth, permanent scarring, a weakened plant, a shortened the lifespan, and poor performance*



Pruning Should be done with purpose only.

Don't Be a Copycat.

Sometimes a tree does need to be pruned. Prune properly and for a reason.

If branches have become damaged or are dead then they need to be removed to protect the tree and to prevent harm to property of people. If they are rubbing together then they need to be removed to prevent further damage to the tree. Sometimes they will hang over a sidewalk or driveway becoming a hazard to passerbys and vehicles parked below.



Should Pruning Become Necessary

Have a Plan

**Consider the objective, have clean and sharp tools,
and remain on the ground if at all possible**

- **Keep pruning tools sharp**
- **Use tools properly**
- **Don't twist or overstrain tools - if the tool is too small or dull, hone the cutting surfaces or find the proper sized tool**
- **Make clean, sharp cuts**
- **Use safety precautions, including closed toe shoes, gloves, goggles and long pants to protect you from splinters or cut limbs**
- **Maintain good firm footing at all times**

When in doubt call in an arborist:

You can search for one at *www.treesaregood.org*



*Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?*

*Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk*

*Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu*

*Phone:
281-341-7068*

*The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon*

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Pruning-with-a-Purpose.pdf>

https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/TFS_Main/Urban_and_Community_Forestry/About_Urban_and_Community_Forestry/Urban_Forest_Information_Sheets/How%20do%20I%20care%20for%20my%20tree%20-%20Pruning%20Young%20Trees.pdf

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/>

https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Planning/City_Arborist/Pruning_Guidelines_for_Prevention_of_Oak_Wilt.pdf

<https://plantdiseasehandbook.tamu.edu/landscaping/trees/oak/>

