



Appendix F

Crop Tree Pruning

Association for Sustainable Forestry

Quality Standards



Crop tree pruning encourages young trees to establish good branch structure and one central bole. When done properly, pruning greatly benefits the quality, future product potential, and health of a tree. Improper pruning, on the other hand, can significantly reduce the quality and potential of a tree. It is better not to prune, then to do it improperly.

The Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF) administers the Category 7 Quality Improvement Silviculture Program through which Crop Tree Pruning is funded on small private woodlands in Nova Scotia. Qualifying sites are eligible for an assistance rate of \$300/hectare. Crop trees eligible for pruning include white pine, red pine, white ash, yellow birch, sugar maple, red oak, red maple and white birch. Crop trees must be 8 metres in height and pruned up at least 5 metres. At least 125 crop trees per hectare must be pruned. This treatment can be combined with Crop Tree Release, Selection Management, or Commercial Thinning.

Pruned trees must be marked with paint or flagging tape, and waypointed with a GPS unit.

The following quality standards must be met in order to receive funding from the ASF for crop tree pruning:

Minimum Acceptable Quality = 80%

Quality Deductions:

1. Stub cut – leaving too much branch
2. Flush cut – cutting too close to the main bole
3. Breaking off dead branch (they need to be properly cut)
5. Tearing bark when cutting larger branch (use the 3 cut method for larger branches)
6. Scuffing tree bole to expose cambium or wood (All of these techniques expose the tree to infection through insect and/or disease.)



Example of unacceptable pruning

Each of the above quality deductions will receive a 1% deduction on quality with a maximum of 1 deduction tallied per tree sampled.

For example, at one sample plot 2 trees are tallied that are pruned. One tree was pruned correctly, while the other has a flush cut branch and the bole is scuffed from the equipment used. Therefore, two quality deductions are recorded on one stem and a 1% deduction on the entire treatment quality is noted.

Note: Please find the sampling procedures in the ASF's Category 7 Quality Improvement Silviculture Program Procedures Manual.