

TOOLS USED FOR PRUNING AND THINNING

**DON THEOE, CF/CFA, ACF
PACK FOREST - FALL SEMINAR 2005**

Pruning – for Wood quality and Provide Habitat for Wildlife -

- **Prune as young (9 yrs) and as high (50%) as possible.**
- **Season to prune – best from November through March.**
- **How to prune.**
 - **Close to tree trunk.**
 - **In 3 lifts of 6' each.**
- **Which trees to prune.**
 - **Species.**
 - **Dominates and Codominates only.**
 - **Spacing, 100 to 125 trees per acre.**
 - **Tree health.**

- **After pruning reaches 18' wait another 25 years before harvesting the tree, can range in age from 10 plus years to several decades.**
- **Record pruning information in your record book for the tree farm – include: year, map showing boundaries, DBH range of trees pruned for each Lift.**
- **Pruning certification is a nice to have, especially when selling the trees in the future.**

Pruning Equipment

- **Hand pruners.**
- **Pruning shears – New Zealand type.**
- **Hand saws for pruning.**
- **Hobo clubs (small baseball bat) for dead branches (eastside only).**
- **Axe or pole handle saws.**
- **Telescoping pole saws – the good and the bad.**
- **Tree whisker (band) saws.**
- **Ladders or climbing, tree ascender.**
- **Motorized pruning saws (?)**
- **Do Not use chainsaws, axes, hatches for pruning.**

Other things to consider

- **Safety** – First Aid kit and towels, hardhats, leather gloves, chaps, goggles and/or face screens.
- **Clothing** – heavy long sleeve shirt, protective (Duck) pants, boots, leather gloves, chaps, rain gear, cruiser's vest.
- **Forestry items** – compass, diameter tape, logger's tape, flagging and/or paint, "Rite in the Rain®" field books, pencils and small ruler.
- **Maintenance and repair tools** – screw drivers, pliers, cleaning solvent (brake parts cleaner or kerosene).
- **Water and/or food.**

Pruning Tree Wounds

- **There is no need to paint tree wounds as the sap will rapidly cover wounds -- paint is not essential.**

Pruning Reference

- **Forest Pruning and Wood Quality of Western North American Conifers** edited by D.P. Hanley, C.D. Oliver, D.A. Maquire, D.G. Briggs and R.D. Flight. Institute of Forest Resources, Box 352100, Seattle, WA 98105-2100. Contribution #77. Price \$35.
- **Contains 32 papers presented at a pruning symposium held during 1992 in Olympia.**

Thinning Equipment

- **Chain Saw I recommend is the Stihl MS –360**
 - **Why? The weight is right for me and it is dependable saw.**
- **Correct files, mixed fuel, extra oil, chains, bar wrench.**
- **Fire fighting tools – shovel, axe and water.**

TREES PER ACRE BY SPACINGS

Spacing (feet)	Trees Number	Spacing (feet)	Trees Number
2X2	10,890	10X10	436
3X3	4,840	10X12	363
4X4	2,722	10X15	290
4X5	2,178	10X18	242
4X6	1,815	11X11	360
4X7	1,556	11X12	330
4X8	1,361	11X15	264
4X9	1,210	11X20	198
4X10	1,089	11X25	158
5X5	1,742	12X12	302
5X6	1,452	12X15	242
5X7	1,245	12X18	202
5X8	1,089	12X20	182
5X9	968	12X25	145
5X10	871	13X13	258
6X6	1,210	13X15	223
6X7	1,037	13X20	168
6X8	908	13X25	134
6X9	807	14X14	222
6X10	726	14X15	207
6X12	605	14X20	156
6X15	484	14X25	124
7X7	889	15X15	194
7X8	778	15X20	145
7X9	691	15X25	116
7X10	622	16X16	170
7X12	519	16X20	136
7X15	415	16X25	109
8X8	681	17X17	151
8X9	605	18X18	134
8X10	544	18X20	121
8X12	454	18X25	97
8X15	363	20X20	109
8X25	218	20X25	87
9X9	538	25X25	70
9X10	484	30X30	48
9X12	403		
9X15	323		



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