

The second cut should be outside of the first cut, and the branch can be completely severed at this point.



The third and final cut is a downward cut at the branch collar, taking care not to damage the slightly swollen branch collar wood near the trunk.



Pruning can be a great outdoor activity. It can also add value to trees that have already received Crop Tree Release or Selection Management.



*For detailed information, please visit the following resources:*

#### **NS Department of Natural Resources**

[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/woodlot)  
1-866-226-7577 [woodlot@gov.ns.ca](mailto:woodlot@gov.ns.ca)

#### **Forest Professionals**

- Registered Professional Foresters Association of Nova Scotia [www.rpfans.ca](http://www.rpfans.ca)
- Nova Scotia Forest Technicians Association [www.nsfia.ca](http://www.nsfia.ca)
- Canadian Institute of Forestry [www.cif-ifc.org](http://www.cif-ifc.org)

#### **Woodlot Owner Organizations**

- Federation of Nova Scotia Woodland Owners [www.fnswo.ca](http://www.fnswo.ca)
- Nova Scotia Landowners and Forest Fibre Producers Association [www.nslffpa.org](http://www.nslffpa.org)
- Nova Scotia Woodlot Owners and Operators Association [www.nswooa.ca](http://www.nswooa.ca)

#### **Harvesting and Silviculture Contractors**

- Nova Forest Alliance [www.novaforestalliance.com](http://www.novaforestalliance.com)
- Atlantic Master Loggers [www.cwfcof.org](http://www.cwfcof.org)

#### **Silviculture Assistance**

- Association for Sustainable Forestry [www.asforestry.com](http://www.asforestry.com)

#### **Woodlot Road Assistance**

- Forest Products Association of Nova Scotia [www.fpans.ca](http://www.fpans.ca)



*A Quick Guide to*

# **CROP TREE PRUNING**



## How can you add further quality and value to the best trees on your woodlot?

Pruning the lower limbs of the tree stem will reduce the size of knots when the trees are harvested for lumber, veneer and other products.

Pruning is most effective before the trees reach 20 cm (8 in) in diameter. At this size, they are still growing vigorously and scars created by the pruning operation will heal more rapidly. Trees should be at least 8 m (25 ft) in height and should be pruned to a height of 5 m (16 ft).

It is important to remember that pruning large branches will create large scars that take longer to heal. Pruning branches that are less than 2.5 cm (1 in) in diameter will avoid excessive scarring.



A good rule of thumb is to prune only those trees with branches less than the thickness of your thumb.

### Tree species that are suited to pruning include:

#### Softwood

- Red pine
- White pine

#### Hardwood

- Yellow birch
- Sugar maple
- Red oak
- White birch
- Red maple
- White ash

### Use the Proper Tools

Pole-mounted pruning saws and hand pruning saws are the best tools for the job. Power pruners (with cutting heads similar to chain saws) can easily damage the tree bark and are difficult to control. Manual saws are more precise and the potential for damage is much less than with power pruners.



### Correct Pruning Sequence

The sequence of a pruning cut is very important. The first cut should be made on the underside of the branch a few inches from the trunk.

