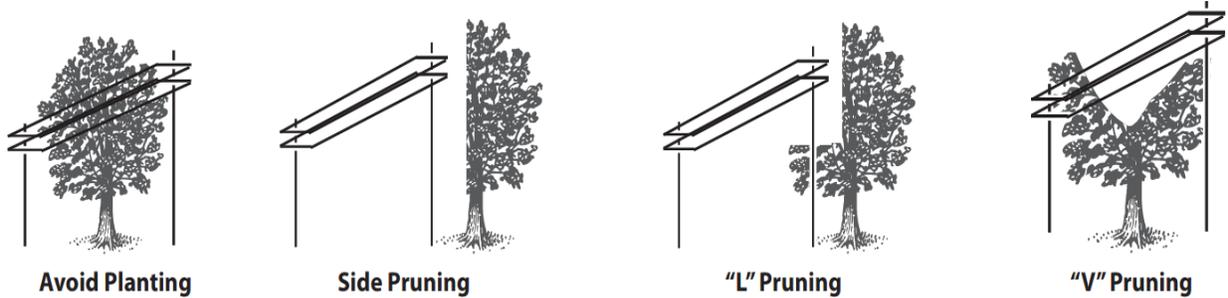


Integrated Vegetation Management Program: Pruning Types & Standards

The IVM Program at Union Power Cooperative has fully adopted and implemented arboricultural standards for line clearance as established and published in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z133 and A300 Pruning standards (as revised), including the drop crotch and directional pruning techniques.



Tree Pruning types conducted through the IVM Program include:

- **Side Pruning** All branches on the side facing the power lines are properly cut back to the required maintenance distance or to the main trunk of the tree. The goal is to push growth away from the energized lines and onto the opposite side of the tree.
- **“L” Pruning** This pruning method leaves a “shelf” formed by the bottom branches of a tree. This pruning type is mainly done on trees in cities and towns where shading for a sidewalk (pedestrian traffic) is wanted.
- **“V” Pruning** This pruning method is performed on trees that have been planted under the power lines. The goal of this pruning type is to divert growth away from the power lines in two directions, however, this does not work well on all tree species.

Improper tree pruning types not conducted through the IVM Program include:

- **Side Prune Stubbing** This practice is not acceptable in yards, however, out in rural areas, it may be done with the use of mechanized equipment.
- **“Shaping” around power lines** This is done by pruning limbs in an arc to obtain clearance, which leads to branches leads to bending and breaking onto the power lines.
- **Pollarding** This practice greatly reduces the size of the tree crown and leads to very rapid sucker sprouting, weak limb attachments, disease, and decay.
- **Rounding Over** This practice results in rapid re-growth, potential disease, and decay at the cutting sites.
- **Topping** This practice results in very rapid re-growth, potential disease, and decay at the cutting sites. This pruning practice is never done on hardwood trees (ex. oak, maple, etc.), and may be the only option for some evergreen trees (ex. pine). Best approach is to plant the Right Tree in the Right Place!

The best approach is to plant the proper tree in the proper place. Contact us at 704-289-3145 for questions regarding our adopted pruning types, or if you have general questions about pruning.