

## ANSI A300 Standards Part 1, Pruning

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## Wayne Dubin Says Hello

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### In the beginning... (before 1991)

- Anyone pruned trees in **whatever way they wanted**
- Experts disagreed as to **what was proper**
- Experts published their **own guides**
- Various **organizations promoted their standards, ...**  
NAA (National Arborist Association)  
*"Pruning Standards for Shade Trees"*

*There was no widespread consensus as to what constituted good tree care*

**Pruning – something to the tree or for the tree**

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### What are ANSI standards?

Voluntary

Industry Consensus

Final Authority

A guide for writing work specifications

What would a court of law say?

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### Should and Shall

- **Shall: Requirement**
  - ✓ Mandatory
  - ✓ Must follow or you violate the standard
- **Should: Recommended**
  - ✓ Based on circumstances, judgment, etc.
  - ✓ "Should" does not mean *ignore!*

Communicate to Client and Crew

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### Different ANSI A300 standards?

- **Part 1, Pruning**
- Part 2, Soil Management (Fertilization)
- Part 3, Tree Support Systems
- Part 4, Lightning Protection
- Part 5, Management (During Construction)
- Part 6, Transplanting
- Part 7, Integrated Vegetation Management
- Part 8, Root and Root Zone Management
- Part 9, Tree Risk Assessment
- Part 10, Plant Health Care

What would a court of law say?

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**Not a "how to" manual for everyday use**

**Standard and Your Professional Expertise**

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**Geoff Kempter**

**Chaired 2017 Revision**

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**Major shift in Pruning Standard**

- **Reorganized and redefined as:**
  - ✓ Pruning Objectives
  - ✓ Pruning Systems
  - ✓ Pruning Cuts
- **Pruning Methods:** no longer the focus
  - ✓ Clean
  - ✓ Raise
  - ✓ Reduce
  - ✓ Thin
- **Pruning Objectives:** what pruning will accomplish
- **Pruning Systems:** how the plant will be maintained over time

**Standard Should be Based on Science**

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**4 Pruning Objectives Should Include ...**

- Clearance
- Manage health
- Risk mitigation
- Aesthetic improvement
- Structural development
- View improvement (vistas, signage, etc)
- Managing size/shape
- Fruit/Floral production

**But Not Limited to ...**

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**5 Pruning Systems**

- Natural**
- Pollarding**
- Topiary**
- Espalier**
- Pleaching**

**What would a court of law say?**

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**5 Pruning Systems**

- Reduce crown or branch
- Raise crown
- Structure
- Clearance
- Tree health
- Tree risk
- Views

**What would a court of law say?**

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**5 Pruning Systems**

- Natural
- Pollarding**
- Topiary
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**What would a court of law say?**

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**5 Pruning Systems**

- Natural
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**What would a court of law say?**

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**What would a court of law say?**

15

**5 Pruning Systems**

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**What would a court of law say?**

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**Though Shall Not ... Top a Tree**



**What would a court of law say?**

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**Though Shall Not ... Lion's Tail**



**What would a court of law say?**

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**6 Pruning Specifications**

- Physical **location of plant**
- Pruning **objective(s)**
- Pruning **system**
- Type of **part to remove** (dead, living, fruit, branch)
- Pruning **amount** (dosage, % of foliage, # branches to remove)

Should Include but Not Limited to

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**6 Pruning Specifications**

- **Location in crown**
- Pruning **cut types** (removal, reduction, heading, shearing):
- **Size range**
- Plan for **debris** (disposal/repurpose)
- **Time frame** for completion

Should Include but Not Limited to

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**7 Pruning Cuts**

- **Branch removal cuts**
- **Reduction cuts**
- **Heading cuts**
- **Shearing cuts**

Pruned to the stem

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**7 Pruning Cuts**

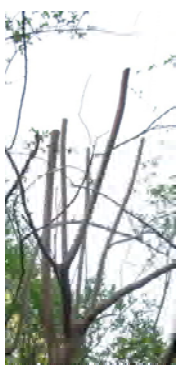
- **Branch removal cuts**
- **Reduction cuts**
- **Heading cuts**
- **Shearing cuts**

Pruned to a branch or codominant location

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**7 Pruning Cuts**

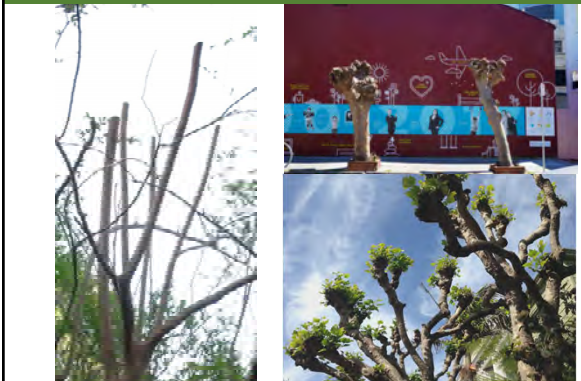
- Branch removal cuts
- Reduction cuts
- **Heading cuts**
- Shearing cuts



Internodal pruning

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**7 Pruning Cuts**

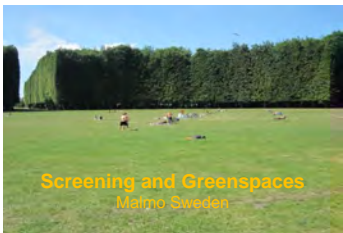


Heading is not topping when a specific objective is defined

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**7 Pruning Cuts**

- Branch removal cuts
- Reduction cuts
- Heading cuts
- **Shearing cuts**




Screening and Greenspaces  
Malmö Sweden

Internodal pruning

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**Pruning System Specification Outline**

- **System:**
- **Objective:**
- **Cut location:**
- **Cut type:**
- **Amount to remove:**



**A Guide to Writing Specifications**

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**Pruning System Specification Outline**

- **System:** natural, pollard, topiary, etc.
- **Objective:** structure, clearance, aesthetics
- **Cut location:** typically, end of largest branches
- **Cut type:** reduction and/or branch removal
- **Amount:**
  - ✓ Cut number/diameter: six 3-inch reduction cuts
  - ✓ Percent length or foliage removed: 50-60%

Communicate to Client and Crew

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How to use this standard to write a work specification.

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### Inadequate Specification

- Prune trees to A300 Standards
- Clean crown to reduce hazard
- Raise crown for vehicle and pedestrian traffic
- Prune to improve structure
- Prune trees to achieve clearance from conductors

**Communicate to Client and Crew**

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### Inadequate Municipal Specification – Street Trees

- Clean crowns of trees to remove dead, diseased and broken branches
- Raise crowns of trees to provide clearance above street and over sidewalks
- Do not remove too much living foliage on any individual tree or branch
- Prune to improve structure:
  - ✓ Reduce or remove interfering, defective, weak, and poorly attached branches
  - ✓ Reduce or remove competing branches and leaders to develop a strong scaffold branch structure
- Prune to A300 Standards



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### More Precise Municipal Specification – Street Trees

- Prune crowns of trees to remove *dead, declining and broken branches >2" diameter*
- Raise crowns of trees to provide *a minimum of 15'* clearance above street *from curb to curb* and *10' above sidewalks*
- Remove no more than *25%* of living foliage on any individual tree or branch
- Prune to improve structure (*trees <12" diameter only*):
  - ✓ *Reduce or remove interfering, defective, weak, and poorly attached branches greater than 2" diameter*
  - ✓ *Reduce or remove competing branches and leaders to develop strong scaffold branches with a minimum 24" spacing*
- *Methods used shall comply with applicable portions of A300, Part 1, etc...*




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### A Customer Calls

#### Client Objectives

- Risk reduction – pedestrians, building
- Clearance – from building, walkway and adjacent tree
- Reduce leaves falling onto building roof
- Assure health of tree




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### A Customer Calls

#### Precise Specification – Prune Red Maple on East Side of Building

- Remove branches in the entire crown of dead, declining and broken branches *>1" in diameter*
- Provide a *minimum of 6' clearance from building and 3' clearance from adjacent tree*. Prune to parent branches or laterals >50% pruned branch
- *Raise crown* to provide *10' of clearance above walkway*
- *Prune crown 3' away from building*
- Remove *no more than 25%* of living foliage overall, or on any specific branch
- *Pruning practices (section 8)* used shall comply with applicable portions of A300, part 1, 2017, Pruning (or latest revision), as follows:...



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### Not a “how to” manual for everyday use



**Standard and Your Professional Expertise**

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