

ORDINANCE 96-12

Repealed
by 97-5

CITY OF SKY VALLEY, GEORGIA

CUTTING, TOPPING AND TRIMMING OF TREES

An Ordinance to provide for the orderly cutting of trees and the removal of debris, to provide for preservation of the natural beauty and rustic atmosphere of the City, to establish a Tree Removal/Cutting Committee, to provide for the issuance of Tree Removal or Tree Trimming Permits and Guidelines for their issuance, to prohibit the unlawful removal, cutting, topping or trimming of trees, to repeal certain Ordinances, and for other purposes.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SKY VALLEY AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. TREE REMOVAL, TOPPING OR TRIMMING WITHOUT A PERMIT PROHIBITED EXCEPT IN CERTAIN CASES:

Trees greater than four (4) inches in diameter at the base within the City shall not be removed, topped or trimmed by any owner, occupant, tenant or his or her agent or employee without a timely permit to do so issued pursuant to this ordinance by the Tree Removal/Cutting Committee.

Section 2. TREE REMOVAL COMMITTEE CREATED

- (a) A Tree Removal/Cutting Committee is hereby created consisting of the Mayor or President of the Council, two members of the City Council, the Chief of Police or the Assistant Police Chief, the City Coordinator and the Chairman of Planning & Zoning Board or designee. Approval of a Tree Removal, Topping or Trimming Permit shall require the signature of any four members of the Committee.

Section 3. GUIDELINES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF TREE REMOVAL PERMITS.

The following guidelines shall be observed by the Tree Removal Committee in issuing Permits:

- (a) Application for a Tree Cutting/Removal Permit must be made at City Hall. A decision will be made in fourteen (14) days by the Committee. Designated trees shall be marked with a ribbon by the applicant. If application is approved, City Clerk shall issue the Tree Removal/Cutting Permit.
- (b) No lot or tract of land shall be clear cut.
- (c) Trees blocking or substantially interfering with a primary view may be removed or topped provided they are on the applicants lot where the home is located.
- (d) Trees should not be topped or trimmed to less than sixty per cent (60%) of their original crowns.
- (e) In carrying out its duties, the Committee shall keep in mind the goal of preserving the natural rustic beauty of the City.
- (f) The Applicant may, in any case, request a variance as to any of the provisions hereof to the City Council, which may grant the same in its discretion by majority vote.
- (g) Trees located within fifteen (15) feet from the main dwelling or a garage, a driveway, septic tank or parking area may be removed. In case of new construction for which a building permit has been issued, trees may be removed if located within fifteen (15) feet of the planned main dwelling or a garage, a driveway, septic tank and drain field, or parking area.
- (i) A copy of the Tree Removal permit must be filed at City Hall and one copy must be posted at the job site before cutting or removal.

Section 4. RESPONSIBILITY OF OWNER AND REMOVAL OF DEBRIS

- (a) The ultimate responsibility for compliance with the provisions of this ordinance lies with the owner of the property involved.
- (b) Debris created by tree trimming, topping or removal shall be adequately disposed of or removed within thirty (30) days after removal, topping or trimming.

Section 5. PENALTIES

Penalties for violation of the provisions hereof shall be as follows:

- (a) For failure to remove or dispose of debris created by tree removal, topping or trimming, the Applicant shall be fined not more than \$100 per day for each day of such failure.
- (b) For failure to obtain a permit as required by this ordinance, the property owner, his or her agent or employee authorizing or permitting tree removal, trimming or topping without such permit shall be fined not more than \$250 for each tree removed, trimmed or topped.

Section 6. REPEALER

City ordinances 84-4, 85-4, 90-7, 93-8, 96-9 and all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict hereof are hereby repealed.

Adopted and effective the 6th day of May, 1996.

James C. Johnston, Mayor

Douglas Hutchins, Council Pres

John Bramonte, Councilman

John Dillard, Councilman

Dorothy O'Brien, Councilman

George Stapleton, Councilman

Attested:

Jessie S. Henson, City Clerk

Approved:

Albert Mims Wilkinson, City Attorney

Procedures for tree cutting permits:

- 1) Property owner or agent fills out form at City Hall giving Name, Property, and brief description of trees to be cut. Property owner or agent marks trees with marking tape.
- 2) Site is inspected by Tree Cutting/Removal Committee
- 3) If rejected, owner is notified as to why.
- 4) If approved, Committee signs permit (with comments and sketches if necessary) and owner is notified.
- 5) Permit is issued by City Clerk and assigned a number. A copy is given to owner/agent for posting at site. A copy is given to Police Department, and a copy is filed at City Hall.
- 6) Site should be inspected after trees are removed by at least one member of Committee. All debris should be removed within 30 days of cutting.
- 7) If owner/agent violates the ordinance a citation should be issued immediately.

TREE CUTTING/REMOVAL COMMITTEE

The tree cutting/removal committee is made up of the following positions:

(1) Either one of:

The Mayor - Jim Johnston

The President of the Council - Doug Hutchins

(2) Either one of:

The Police Chief - Tony Galloway

The Asst. Police Chief - Ron Seacott

(3) Any two of:

The City Council: George Stapleton

Dot O'Brien

John Bramonte

John Dillard

(4) The City Coordinator: Moody Barrick

(5) The Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Board:

Ralph Merrow

(or his designee)

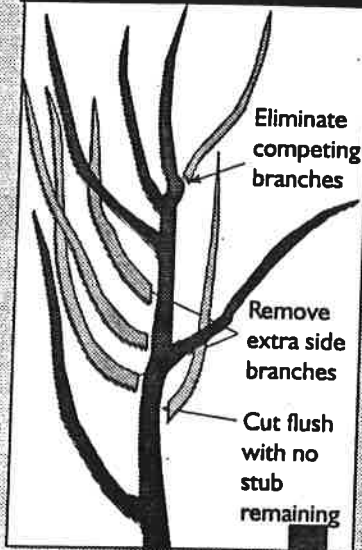
Before a tree cutting/removal permit may be issued it must be signed by four members of the committee (any one person from groups (1), (2), (4), and (5) and/or any two from of group (3)).

STEP BY STEP

Various methods of pruning

Pruning is part science, part art. The science starts when you begin to understand how plants grow and respond to different pruning cuts. The art comes into play as you shape the plant.

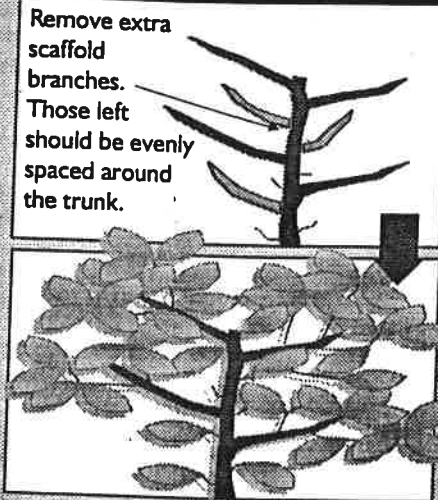
THINNING



Thinning

Removes an entire shoot or limb, reduces the number of new shoots from lateral buds and directs growth. It makes the plant healthier and stronger.

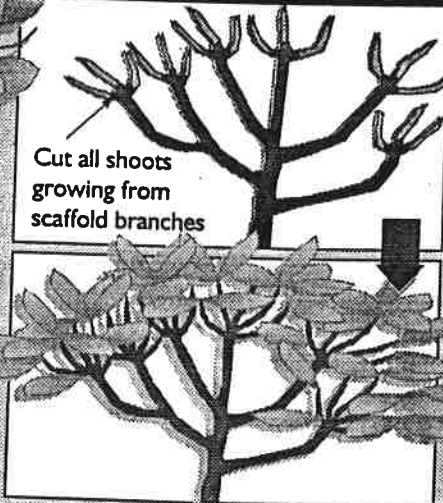
VASE SHAPES



Vase shape

A fruit tree that is vase-shaped when mature usually produces a better crop.

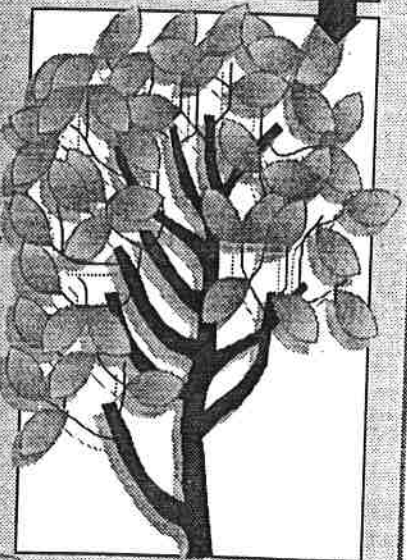
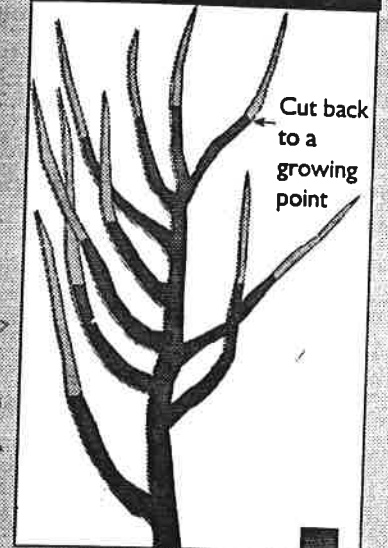
POLLARDING



Pollarding

Creates dwarf trees. In pollarding, a tree is headed at a height of 8 to 12 feet above ground. Each scaffold branch is headed when it reaches 2 to 5 feet long. Remove shoots from these branches yearly.

HEADING



Heading

Stimulates more branching, making plants shorter and denser. Cut should be made at a growing point — leaf, dormant bud or another branch. Normally accompanies thinning.

Source: San Jose Mercury News; "All About Pruning" (Ortho Books) and "Pruning: How-To Guide for Gardeners" (HP Books);
Research by Joan Jackson

CITY OF SKY VALLEY

Permit #: _____

TREE CUTTING PERMIT

Requested by: _____ Date: _____

Property Owner: _____ Property: _____

Reason/Description: _____

	(Signature)	Date:	Approved?	
			YES	NO
(1)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Jim Johnston or Doug Hutchins			
(2)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tony Galloway or Ron Seacott			
(3)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Moody Barrick			
(4)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ralph Merrow			
(5)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dot O'Brien			
(6)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	John Bramonte			
(7)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Esther Lowry			
(8)	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Write comments on back of permit.

Note the following from Ordinance 96-12:

Section 1. TREE REMOVAL, TOPPING OR TRIMMING WITHOUT A PERMIT PROHIBITED EXCEPT IN CERTAIN CASES.

Trees greater than four (4) inches in diameter at the base within the City shall not be removed, topped or trimmed by any owner, occupant, tenant or his or her agent or employee without a timely permit to do so issued pursuant to this Ordinance by the Tree Removal/Cutting Committee.

Section 4. RESPONSIBILITY OF OWNER AND REMOVAL OF DEBRIS

- (a) The ultimate responsibility for compliance with the provisions of this ordinance lies with the owner of the property involved.
- (b) Debris created by tree trimming, topping or removal shall be adequately disposed of or removed within thirty (30) days after removal, topping or trimming.
- (c) A copy of the Tree Removal permit must be filed at City Hall and one copy posted at the job site.

Section 5. PENALTIES

Penalties for violation of the provisions hereof shall be as follows:

- (a) For failure to remove or adequately dispose of debris created by tree removal, topping or trimming, the Applicant may be fined not more than \$100 per day for each day of such failure.
- (b) For failure to obtain a permit as required by this ordinance, the property owner, his or her agent or employee authorizing or permitting tree removal, trimming or topping without such permit may be fined not more than \$250 for each tree removed, trimmed or topped.