



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Pruning



Do You Have Problems with:

- Too much shade to grow grass
- Growth and vigor of understory plants
- Appearance of trees or shrubs
- Quality of wood products
- Production of plant products
- Branches interfering with equipment
- Fire and/or safety hazards



Managing your woodlands is important.

Purposes and Benefits of Pruning

Pruning is done on land used for recreation, production of timber and non-timber crops. For example, in woods where ginseng is being raised, trees may need to be pruned to increase light to the forest floor. Where cattle are grazed in wooded areas, pruning can enhance the forage production.

Some of the benefits are:

- Can grow other crops in between rows of trees
- Increase the production of crops being grown between rows of trees
- Increase the value of existing trees for timber harvest
- Make it easier to move equipment around the trees
- Properly done, pruning can make your woods healthier and more productive



Pruning your woods can assist you diversify your operation.





Associated Costs

The costs of pruning will vary depending upon the size, type and number of trees to be pruned. Pruning can be expensive and time consuming. Concentrate on pruning trees that will provide the most economic return.

When pruning to improve timber value, prune high value trees. In the average pine plantation, 100 - 150 trees per acre should be selected for pruning. Costs to consider include:

- Cost of equipment (loppers or pruning saws).
- Manual labor involved in actual pruning process.
- Cleaning up debris if it hampers production of understory crops or forage.





Technical and Financial Help Is Available

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

For More Information

Visit the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) or visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

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NRCS conservationist assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan.

