



## **Topic: Pruning a Live Oak tree**

**Question:** My landscaper said that my live oak trees need to be trimmed every year during January-February. This seems extreme even if a few trucks touch the tips of the lower branches. I live on a very low traffic cul-de-sac. I will appreciate your opinion before mid-February.

- Chuck, email

**Answer:** This is indeed a good time of year to prune oaks and other cold hardy trees. The trees are near dormancy and the risk of pest problems associated with wounding is minimized. It also allows sufficient time for a tree to take full advantage of the coming growing season to close and compartmentalize its wounds. However, pruning of oaks and other trees should be more purposeful than habitual. The lower limbs on the tree can be permanently removed without ill effects and should help avoid the annual pruning ritual. A certified arborist is recommended for such jobs.

### **Useful Links**

[Pruning Trees](#)

[Stephen's Webpage](#)

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by sending an email to [brownsh@leegov.com](mailto:brownsh@leegov.com).

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