



## Topic: Slash Pines Topping

**Question:** I planted a couple of slash pines in our yard that are now about 4 feet tall, but they will grow into the flight path of our neighborhood ospreys that roost very nearby. Is there a way to top/shorten pines so they will not grow tall?

- Charles, Pine Island

**Answer:** There are no plant hormones that would keep a slash pine below its expected height. Pruning however is one way to do that. That would involve topping it while it is still short and pruning back the resulting shoots thereafter.



Young slash pines

## Useful Links

[Big Native Trees, Part 3](#)  
[‘Shady Lady’ Black Olive](#)  
[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 e-mailing [brownsh@leegov.com](mailto:brownsh@leegov.com). Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml>. For native plants click on Publications A-Z.

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