

TREE REMOVAL AND TOPPING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SEAPLUME

A. Overview (General Principles)

The ultimate goal is to encourage or at least allow the removal of Australian pines without any net loss in canopy, by replacing them with more desirable native trees.

Any tree removal will reduce canopy temporarily, but by limiting the number of trees that can be removed at any one time and requiring the planting of new trees when trees are removed, it should be possible to restore lost canopy in a reasonably short time (but this might still be 5 to 10 years).

Restoration of the original live oak-red cedar hammock is the primary goal, but the planting of other, non-native trees should be permitted where people desire color or fruit.

The removal of all trees should be scrutinized, not just Australian pines. To worry about Australian pines and allow the free removal of more desirable trees would be foolish.

Any restrictions and limits should be as painless as possible. Small trees and Australian pines close to dwellings should be exempt from any restrictions. Topping of Australian pines should be allowed if done judiciously, as described below.

B.

1. Topping of Australian Pines should be allowed, but no Australian pines may be topped any lower than 35 feet, and cuts must be properly made, diagonally, just above a lateral branch, as per the recommendations of Dr. Alex Shigo. These restrictions will help maintain the trees in reasonably healthy and safe condition following their topping.

2. Any time trees are to be removed, the association should be notified by letter before any work begins. If the work is exempt from these restrictions, as set forth below, the letter need only specify the number, species, size, and distance from the dwelling (for Australian pines more than 4 inches in diameter) of trees to be removed.

If the proposed work requires approval of the association, a drawing should be submitted showing the buildings and property lines and the trees to be removed, and noting for each such tree its species and size. In addition, a

replanting plan as described below must be submitted for all non-exempt trees to be removed.

3. One tree must be planted for every two Australian pines removed, and a tree planted for every other tree removed on a one-for-one basis, except that no replacement trees are required for exempt trees as noted below in section 4.

Recommended replacement trees include live oak, red cedar, and cabbage palm. Red cedars are somewhat brittle and may drop branches, so they should not be planted too close to buildings, but they are much less hazardous than Australian pines. Cabbage palms should not receive as much credit as other trees for replacement purposes; three cabbage palms should be counted as a single tree. Other trees may also be planted at the discretion of the association. Trees planted should be at least 3 inches in trunk diameter two feet above the ground.

Please note that proper care of these young trees is essential to maximize their growth, so that lost canopy will be restored as quickly as possible.

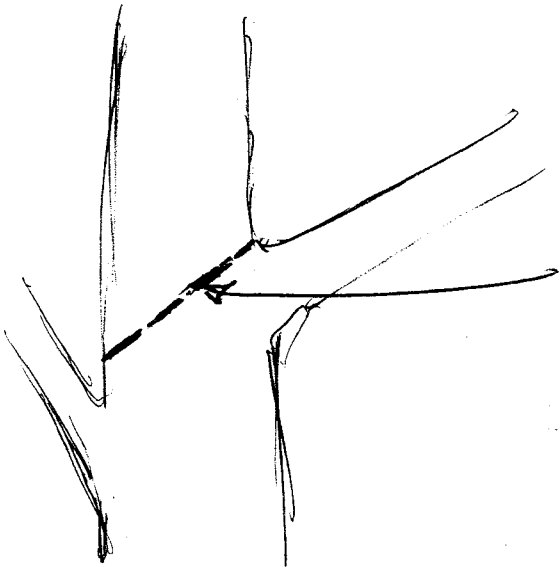
4. Australian pines less than 4 inches in trunk diameter two feet above the ground are exempt from these restrictions, except for the notice required above. Australian pines of any size are also exempt if the main trunk is located less than 20 feet from any dwelling. All other trees are exempt only if they are less than 3 inches in trunk diameter.

5. Removal of Australian pines, other than those exempt from the restrictions, is limited to no more than five trees in a two-year period. Removal of other trees should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

6. The association may, in its discretion, make an exception to any of the above provisions. Thus, a person who wishes to remove more than five Australian pines at one time may be permitted to do so, for example, if he or she can show that the loss of canopy will not be too great and that the hole created will be filled in a reasonable time.

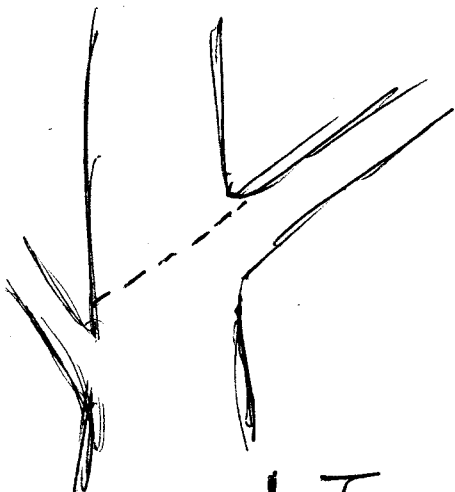
THE EXTENSION SERVICE MAY HAVE DRAWINGS OF HOW TREES SHOULD BE TOPPED. IF NOT, HERE ARE SOME ROUGH SKETCHES.

Larry



FINAL CUT SHOULD BE MADE JUST ABOVE A LATERAL BRANCH, DIAGONALLY.

IF A BRANCH BARK RIDGE IS PRESENT, THE CUT SHOULD BE ABOVE THE RIDGE, AS FOLLOWS!



WRONG! TOO CLOSE TO BRANCH.

