

**Sharon Friends of
Conservation
TRAIL STEWARD'S GUIDE
www.sharonfoc.com**

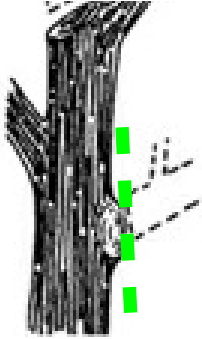


TRAIL STEWARD'S GUIDE

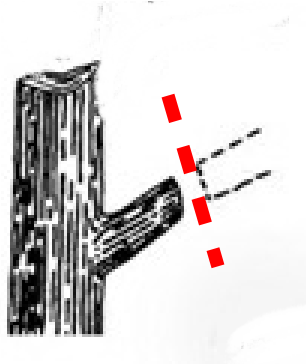
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A

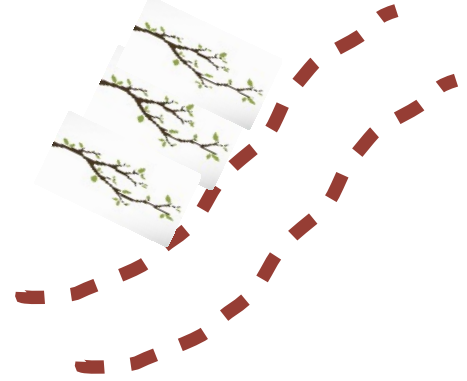
CORRECT



INCORRECT



B



A) Cut branches close to trunk. If branch extends way out, cut after a fork (**C**). The point is to allow new growth to fill out which looks better than a lot of pointy sticks.

B) If you have branches and cuttings lay them down off the trail with the cut ends facing away from the trail. It is easier to move them off the trail than top first. If there is a sizeable amount of cuttings, place them with cut ends toward the trail. Line them up together to minimize the size of the brush pile. This hides bare pointy stump ends sticks. Brush piles also will provide valuable shelter and cover for many different species.

D) Cut plants (such as glossy buckthorn) as close as possible to the ground. This looks better and eliminates stubs which someone might step on or trip over.

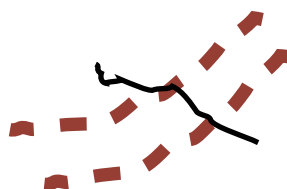
E) Always cut loose vines and other stringy vegetation crossing the trail which can cause a hiker to trip.

A trail should be only wide enough so a single walker can pass easily. We do not need to create super highways through the woods!

C



E



D



TRAIL STEWARD'S GUIDE

TOOLS

Trail care is much easier if you have good equipment. Hand pruners are very useful and are easy to carry with you. For thicker branches, loppers are good for up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch branches. To avoid carrying two tools good compromise is midsize loppers. The limb saw is good for branches over $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. It can handle thick branches, the size depending on available muscle power. The bow saw will cut large branches as well and is well-suited in dealing with fallen wood. Finally the crosscut saw will handle large diameter logs. Sharon Friends of Conservation will lend you one. Great Exercise! It is important that tools be sharp and in good condition. Shears and loppers should be of the bypass blade type. Bypass blades make for a cleaner cut.

Put some bright colored paint or tape on tools to avoid losing them in the woods.

Fiskars and *Felco* are two very good brands for pruning tools:

www2.fiskars.com

<https://felcopruner.net/>

BYPASS BLADES

ANVIL BLADE



Bypass

Anvil



HAND PRUNERS



CROSSCUT SAW



LIMB SAW



BOW SAW



LOPPERS



WORK GLOVES

Loppers come with a range of handle lengths, from shorter 15" or 18" loppers to 32" or longer. Lopper length affects the amount of leverage you have – longer loppers give you more leverage, making it easier to cut through thicker branches.



GREENBRIAR VINE



JAPANESE BARBERRY
thorny invasive

WHITE PINE
Only trim as needed.



WHITE PINE BRANCH



Glossy Buckthorn is rife along trail sides. An invasive, it craves the lighted area paths provide.



GLOSSY BUCKTHORN

INVASIVE

Smooth edge leaves

O.K. TO PRUNE

Cut to ground level if possible



SWEETPEPPER BUSH

NATIVE

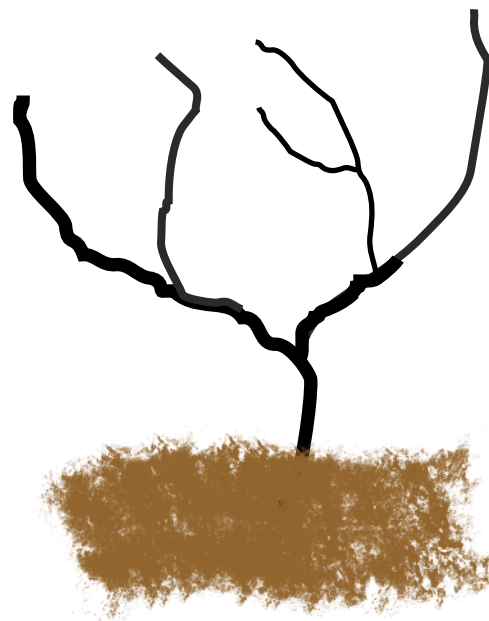
Serrated leaves

GOOD PLANT

DO NOT PRUNE



Buckthorn grows fast in tall shoots up to 5 ft. It shades out native plants. It intrudes into trails.



Sweetpepper branches out into a bush form.

Other invasives to prune or remove



ASIATIC BITTERSWEET

Bright reddish roots. Seed & rot sprouts



SIATIC / JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Grows in dense sometimes impenetrable patches up to 5 ft tall. Interestingly knotweed is quite edible and various recipes abound. Plants 6 to 9 inches are best to harvest. Be sure not to compost knotweed waste a new plants can grow from slivers.

<http://eattheinvaders.org/Japanese-knotweed/>

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/206602-last-chance-foods-tart-taste-knotweed-revenge/>