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| Revision #:  Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYY  Approved by: |
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| Related Documents: | * Owner’s Manual Tools –Manual * Pneumatic/Air/Electric/Battery/Hand * Part 9 of the OHS General Regulations | |
| When to use this SWP: | Pruners are used to cut small branches or pieces of wood leaving a nice clean cut to prevent damaged wood which in turn can incur disease and kill the branches and eventually the tree or shrub. | |
| Hazards & Risks: | * Cuts * Amputations * Strains & Sprains * Fatigue * Fire * Electric Shock * Embolism | |
| Personal Protective Equipment: | CSA approved equipment as per owner’s manual   * Steel toes * Safety glasses * Gloves * Hearing protection * Contain loose clothing and long hair | |
| Training Requirements: | * Training by a competent experienced person | |
| Communication Process: | * Work with an experienced person before operating on your own. Read the owner’s manual before use. | |
| Equipment & Supplies: | * First Aid Kit * Fire Extinguisher * Cell/Smart Phone or two-way radio | |
| 1. Read the owner’s manual before use of the pruners. 2. Inspect the pruner before use. 3. Choose the correct pruner for the job. 4. Use the deepest part of the blade to get the most leverage. 5. Use the ball of your hand and base of fingers to operate the pruners. 6. Switch to loppers if the pruners are not able to easily cut through the wood. 7. Carry pruners in a toolbelt of holster for easy access and to free hands while climbing up and down ladders or mounting and dismounting a platform. 8. Do not cut any other material with the pruners, only wood. 9. Keep the pruners sharp and in good conditions. 10. Clean the pruners regularly to prevent the spread of disease. 11. Ensure the bypass mechanism is aligned to prevent catching or jamming. 12. Selectively prune by choosing dead, diseased, and crossing branches only. 13. Close and lock the pruners when they are not in use. 14. Follow professional pruning technique by cutting to a growth node or crotch of the branch; do not leave stubs. 15. Wear the personal protective equipment outlined in the manual for the pruner used. Contain loose clothing and long hair. 16. Keep fingers out of the cutting path. 17. Maintain a safe distance such as 10 feet from overhead hazards such as power lines. 18. Inspect the tree of insects and pests such as bees and wasps, 19. If carrying the pruner, carry it with the sharp end pointed to the ground. 20. Dress for weather conditions. 21. Take frequent breaks to prevent repetitive strain injury. If possible, Switch hands. 22. Follow the safe work practice for Orchard ladders. 23. Follow the safe work practice for Mobile platforms.   Pneumatic or Air Pruners:   1. See points 1-23 above 2. Follow the safe work practice for air compressor. 3. Lubricate the tools as per manufacturers specs to ensure optimum condition for operation. 4. Keep the correct air pressure for the pruner.   Electric/Battery Operated Pruners:   1. See points 1-23 above 2. Do not use electric pruners in the rain or wet conditions. 3. Do not use around flammable gases, liquids or dust. 4. Follow the safe work practice for electricity. 5. Use the correct voltage supply as per manufacturers manual. 6. Keep pruner at least 50 feet from powerlines. 7. Only charge battery operated pruners indoors. 8. Do not perform maintenance while the pruner is being charged or plugged in. 9. Store the pruner with the cover in place. 10. Use the correct charger and do not modify the charger. | | |
| EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: | | In case of emergency, contact 911 and the farm owner immediately. Remove yourself from harm’s way and ensure no one else is at risk. |