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Articles;

- Reducing fire risk
- Palm fruiting cycles
- Timber milling

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Other services;

- Habitat boxes
- Slab sales
- Slab surfacing
- Cable installation
- Formative or restorative pruning
- Tree removal
- Power line pruning

The Marri Ranger

Reducing fire risk

Summer is well and truly upon us and the risk of fire is as far away as the next hot day.

Reducing the fire loading of your property is simply good management and doesn't have to involve great changes.

Removing dead trees and shrubs is a good way to start. Of course not all dead trees should be removed as they can still be useful in the ecosystem as habitat for micro and macro fauna.

We can help you by offering advice on the specific pruning requirements or removal of trees on a priority based system.

The removal of branches overhanging houses and power lines is advisable. A minimum of 2-3 meters is recommended.

Crown cleaning is a pruning technique that removes deadwood, congestive and rubbing branches.

Crown lifting is the removal of low lateral branches and can reduce the likelihood of ground fires entering tree canopies by increasing the distance between the ground and tree branches.

Sensible fire safety doesn't necessarily require the removal of all trees and we certainly would advise against this.

When designing new gardens or adding to existing ones, select plants that are less flammable.

Long grasses and excessive leaf litter should be removed.

Also timber should be stacked in a low risk position and covered with a barrier to embers or radiant heat.

Maybe most important and easiest to do is to clean your gutters of dead leaves. In a fire, flying embers could slide down the roof and ignite this debris.

Aust. Standards

It is a common misconception that all tree pruners are "tree loppers". However, lopping is a poor quality pruning technique and subsequently does not meet Australian Standards 4373 (Pruning of amenity trees).

Surprisingly, not many tree contractors comply with AS4373 and it is up to the client to choose an arborist qualified to a minimum of Cert. III arboriculture. Just ask to see their certificate.

Many contractors will use grey advertising terminology such as "professional" or "experienced". These terms don't guarantee that the arborist is qualified and given the choice, why would you choose a contractor who has chosen not to be qualified.

Compliance with AS4373 ensures that the pruning techniques have been assessed as the best practice for the health and safety of your tree.

Palm fruiting cycles

Most palms will commence their fruiting cycle at the first sign of hot weather.

The Queen palm (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), or more commonly known as the Cocos palm is a high maintenance plant that, once mature, flowers and fruits year round. The orange fruits are borne in a profusion

amongst the crown of the palm and require removal on an annual basis. The best time for this is usually February when the fruit and flowers are still enclosed in their green torpedo shaped bract.

The Cotton palms (*Washingtonia robusta* and *W. filifera*) usually accumulate dead fronds that are

a real fire hazard. Their arrangement and abundance permits a rapid and intense fire.

Removing these dead fronds will reduce that hazard and the mess that occurs if left untended.

Palms that self clean include the Bangalow or Alexandra (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* and *A. alexandrae*).

Contact Us

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The
Tree Guild
of W.A.



Int. Society of Arboriculture Aust. Chapter

Timber milling

If a tree has to be removed or has fallen, it could possibly be milled to recover potentially valuable timber slabs from its trunk.

Our milling service uses the Lucas Dedicated Slabber and can cut slabs up to approx 6m long and up to 1.5m wide.

If the trunk is suitable, milling can be a cost effective option to carting the refuse away. It is certainly a better environmental option to burning or carting the refuse to a landfill site.

Some of our clients have used our milling service because their relative had planted the tree and they wanted to make a table from it for sentimental value. This table could span generations!



For more information contact;

- FESA; <http://www.fesa.wa.gov.au/internet/default.aspx?MenuID=430>
- Western Power; <http://www.westernpower.com.au/summersafety/index.html>
- Volunteer bush fire services;
- Darlington; <http://darlingtonvillage.org/>
- Glen Forrest; <http://www.glenforrestfirebrigade.org/contacts.php>
- Local shire councils:
- Mundaring; <http://www.mundaring.wa.gov.au/ResidentServices/FireEmergency/Pages/FirePrevention.aspx>
- Kalamunda; <http://www.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/ServicesandInformation/RangerServices/Fire/Preparation.aspx>
- Swan; http://www.swan.wa.gov.au/Residents/Safety_and_Security/Emergency_Services_and_Volunteering
- Tree Guild of W.A.: <http://www.treeguild.com/>
- Trees are good; <http://www.treesaregood.org/treecare/topping.aspx>

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