Pruning Palm Trees

Today on Gardening in a Minute: pruning palm trees.

If you have palm trees, you may be wondering about the proper way to prune them.

Palms like our native cabbage palm automatically shed their dead leaves and don’t require pruning.

If you have palms that aren’t self-cleaning, you may choose to prune them periodically. Just use a pole saw to remove any brown fronds. Leave the green fronds alone, since they’re the energy factory for the tree.

If you hire a tree service, don’t let them climb with tree spikes, since these cause permanent damage to the trunk.

Many palms are unfortunately overpruned through a practice known as “hurricane cutting,” which removes too many fronds and actually weakens trees in the event of a windstorm.

Always remember that the point of pruning is to remove only dead growth.

For more information about pruning palm trees and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.