Hurricane Pruning Palms

Today on Gardening in a Minute: hurricane pruning palms.

When it comes to pruning palm trees, less is usually better.

You never want to overprune your palms by subjecting them to what’s called “hurricane pruning” or “hurricane cutting,” where all but a few fronds are cut off.

Palms are naturally able to withstand the high winds that hurricanes bring, so removing fronds isn’t necessary. In fact, it can seriously damage the palm tree, since it removes green leaves that serve as the tree’s energy factory.

When pruning palms, only remove fronds that are completely brown and that hang below the 9 o’clock or 3 o’clock position.

If you hire a professional, make your wishes clear by putting them in writing. Explain that you want your palms to have a rounded canopy, not a mohawk.

For more information about hurricane cutting palms 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.