

"Shortcuts" is a word with bad overtones in a business as hazardous as ours, but not all shortcuts are dangerous. Most "tricks" of any trade are essentially shortcuts . . . more efficient ways of doing the same job with less effort or in less time.

Let's face it. We all know guys who've been doing some things over and over again the hardest, slowest way, year after year. Experience may be the greatest teacher, but unfortunately it doesn't always have the best pupils.

Here are a few simple common sense short cuts passed on by some experienced students of the trade. They are worth trying:

When taking down a tree on a nice lawn you can save time and minimize damage by cutting up the limbs as they come off into about 4 to 6 ft. lengths and placing them perpendicular to the intended path where the trunk will be felled. This will prevent the trunk from



ARBORIST SHOP TALK

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Shortcuts For Tree Men

"trenching" or gouging into the lawn and will help prevent a big dent in the ground from the heavy trunk.

It will also serve to elevate the trunk so it can be cut up without any chance of cutting into the ground with your saw. A wider cushion area can be made by placing the logs in an alternating or staggered pattern so that the log ends overlap about 1/3 of their length. Stack your brush in the line-of-fall also for added cushion.

Working on a busy street and want to sell or unload for free some firewood?

Cut it into fireplace length as you work and keep stacking it between the curb or pavement or in front yard near the street. You'll get customers! If it's more than a one day job and you want to dispose of it just stack it near the curb, chances are excellent that it will all be gone by morning.

If you do sell wood off the job, sell it cheap, you'll sell more and that beats hauling it. Besides you can get a lot of new tree customers that way.

Then there's the limb-over-a-wire-technique that's obvious once you see it done, but few practice it.

Briefly stated, it's this: Many limbs over wires, especially telephone wires can be removed simply and without rigging, just by doing it in two steps with the help of the ground man.

Have him throw a dry manilla rope over the wires (or use the hook on back of your pole saw) and pull them towards the tree trunk. You should get a 3 to 5 foot pull depending how much slack is in the wires. Climber (or other ground man using a pole saw) then cuts off the end of the limb.

Now pull wires the other way (they should clear point where first cut was made by 2 to 3 ft.) Now cut the rest of limb off flush. Both pieces should fall safely to ground with no danger of falling on wire . . . and, no ropes! Be careful, though, about those wires. It's best to determine what type of power is being transmitted. Call the Utility Company!



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