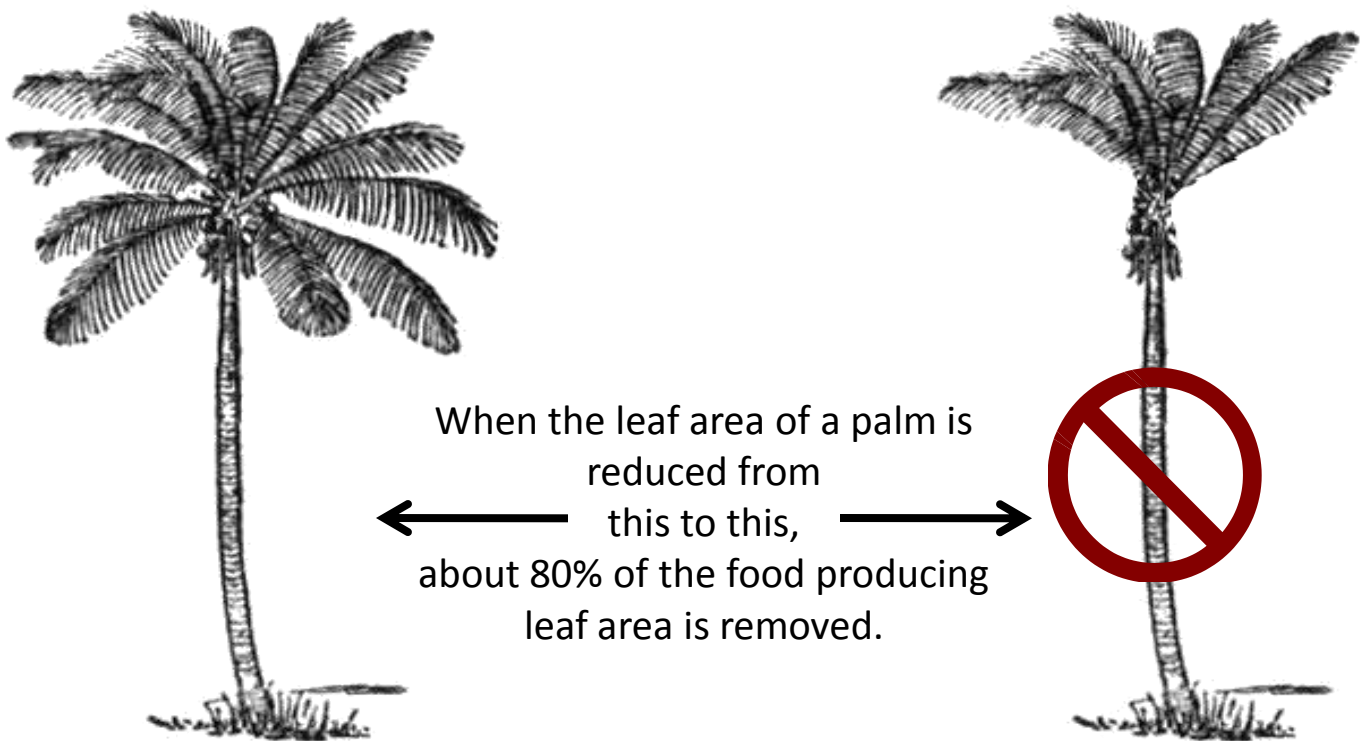


Theresa Badurek, Urban Horticulture Extension Agent

Palms put on an average of one new frond per month during the growing season, although this varies greatly from one species to the next. The reason for mass removal of healthy green fronds is because it is more convenient for the pruner to remove everything and not have to prune the tree again for 6 to 12 months. It is not healthy for the palm. Constant leaf area removal results in damage and decline and eventual death of the palm from weakening.



- ✓ Pruning should be restricted to the removal of damaged and dead fronds only.
- ✓ Boots can be pulled off, not chain sawed off, as this can damage the trunk area.
- ✗ Over-pruning removes food and shelter for birds and other wildlife. Do not remove fruit.
- ✗ Over-pruning can cause a “bottleneck” or narrowing of the trunk.
- ✗ Climbing spikes leave holes in the trunks which never compartmentalize (heal). This makes the palms unsightly and susceptible to disease and insect infestations.