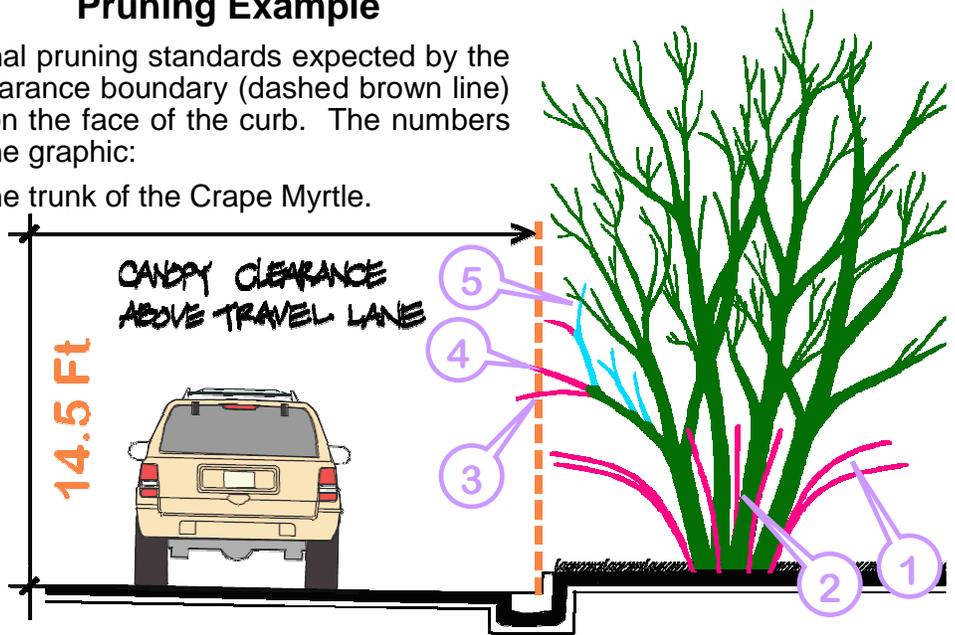


# Multi-Trunked Crape Myrtle Pruning Technique

## Pruning Example

This graphic depicts professional pruning standards expected by the Department. The 14½-foot clearance boundary (dashed brown line) is the vertical plane based upon the face of the curb. The numbers below correspond to those in the graphic:

- ① Remove basal suckers at the trunk of the Crape Myrtle.
- ② Retain 3 to 5 trunks or, if absent, choose 3 to 5 trunks to be cultivated as leaders.
- ③ Remove limbs that are down-sloping, if they encroach into the clearance boundary.
- ④ Upward-sloping limbs will be preserved until they encroach into the clearance boundary.
- ⑤ When upward-sloping limbs encroach into the clearance boundary, if possible, trim the upward sloping limb (See ④) to grow further upward by cutting back to a suitable sub-branch. This shall be first choice of action rather than removing entire limbs. Three examples of sub-branches, suitable for redirecting growth, are shown in blue at ⑤.



----- Original Message -----

From: [Kosov, Bob](#)

To: [Wemhoff, Philip](#)

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Sent: Tuesday, October 01, 2013 10:46 AM

Subject: Southside Crape Myrtles

[...] Mr. Wemhoff, there were many topics of discussion and opinions related to the pruning activities; for clarity the pruning protocol that was agreed upon by the Department is restated below:

- 1.1 We will minimize visibility issues by following the MRP Tree Trimming and Landscaping characteristics requirements, specifically pages 116-119 of the FDOT MRP Handbook. Moving forward, all future pruning will continue to follow the District 2 Landscape Maintenance Policy and Pruning Guidelines, as applicable.
- 1.2 We will remove all basal suckers, those located at the tree base, and they will be removed at the center of the trunk cluster as necessary. Three to five (3 to 5) main trunks will be retained if deemed healthy.
- 1.3 If a significant upward-traveling limb is growing toward the road it will NOT be cut until it actually encounters the 14.5-foot clearance boundary (the vertical plane which projects upward from the face of the curb). When the encounter eventually takes place, an "arborist-correct" cut will be made, with the goal of using a sub-branch to redirect the limb upward or away from the road.  
*This rule does NOT apply to ground-cut trees whose basal suckers must be carefully cultivated into regenerated trees.*
- 1.4 Significant limbs will not be removed in ANTICIPATION that they will eventually cross the 14.5-foot clearance boundary; they must actually encounter the clearance boundary in order to be considered for cutting. Note: Limb types are characterized by their rigidity and bark: "Significant limbs" are inflexible and woody and have grey, mottled or shedding bark, and "basal suckers" are uniform flexible rods, having non-shedding bark.
- 1.5 After the current pruning cycle, we will make every reasonable effort to conduct pruning during the dormant season; though it must be anticipated that there will be occasions during the growing season that a tree or trees will need to be pruned in order to comply with public safety concerns.

*In addition, the Department will continue to make every reasonable effort to ensure the Contractor follows the District 2 Landscape Maintenance Policy and Pruning Guidelines. In the event a situation arises that is not addressed by Department policies or guidelines, it will be brought to the FDOT Jacksonville Maintenance Engineer (JME) for resolution.*

- 1.6 Before each annual pruning, the contractor will meet with the Community representative to discuss the upcoming trimming effort.

[...] The Department's referenced guidance documents, along with the above agreed upon direction, will sufficiently address the desired pruning outcomes. Copies of the documents and the above direction [have] been provided to the contractor and their crews. We will keep you personally informed of the pruning schedule should you wish to observe.