



## Pruning Palm Plants: Tips On Cutting Back A Palm Tree

*By Teo Spengler*



Cutting back a palm tree will not make it grow faster. This myth has caused gardeners to do extensive palm tree pruning that doesn't help and can hurt the tree. Pruning palm plants, like any plant pruning, must be undertaken carefully. If you want to know how and when to prune a palm tree to make it stronger and healthier, read on.

### Trimming a Palm Tree

Some experts recommend avoiding all palm tree pruning, but most suggest you avoid cutting too much or too often. When should you think about pruning palm plants?

Think about cutting back a palm tree if you notice dead or dying fronds. Removing these

fronds by pruning palm plants not only prevents breakage damage, it also eliminates nesting places for rats, scorpions and other pests.

Another good reason to start trimming a palm tree is when it has become a fire hazard or visual hazard in your yard. If it blocks the views from your driveway or sidewalk, you'll have to start palm tree pruning.

### How and When to Prune a Palm Tree

Experts recommend that you wait until spring to prune your palm tree. Those dead fronds may be somewhat unattractive, but they will help protect the palm from summer's heat and winter's cold.

Sterilize and sharpen your pruning tools before you begin. Generally, you'll need pruners, garden knives and pruning saws when you are trimming a palm tree. Wear safety glasses and protective gloves, as well as heavy pants and a shirt with long sleeves.

Remove any hanging, dead or unhealthy fronds. All dry, wilted or diseased fronds should be removed.

On the other hand, when you are pruning palm plants, don't think you need to prune green, healthy fronds. There is no biological reason to do so and it can stress the tree. Be sure not to remove green fronds growing horizontally or pointing up.

### What to Avoid When Cutting Back a Palm Tree

When cutting back a palm tree, don't remove most of the fronds. Some gardeners make the mistake of doing this every year, and the tree becomes weak and unhealthy.

In fact, leave as many green fronds as you possibly can on the palm. Palms need many green fronds to produce a steady food supply so that the plant can grow. A palm tree cannot stay healthy and build reserves without a considerable number of green fronds.

And resist the urge to start pruning palm plants for cosmetic reasons. Pruning them into pineapple shapes or skinning their trunks weaken the trees.



School reopened for the new academic year recently. Drivers are reminded that all school zones have reduced and restricted speed limits. The use of cell phones is restricted in school zones also.

Be sure to STOP when a school bus is stopped to allow passengers to enter or exit. Wait until the flashing lights are off and the bus has resumed moving.

Use sidewalks when walking children to or from school. Park only in designated areas when dropping off or picking up children at school. Be alert to crossing guards and children in the area.

Our children are the future, let's take care of them.

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## SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [ARTICLES@peelinc.com](mailto:ARTICLES@peelinc.com). Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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# BALLOONS ARE DANGEROUS!

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Really?

I can remember in grade school how we all attached notes to balloons before letting them go in hopes that the balloon would be found by someone far, far away. It was exciting to think that maybe someone from New York or California would find it and contact me. It never happened. I've been to weddings and graduations where helium balloons were let go as part of the celebration. What I didn't know is the enormous amount of damage these balloons can do to our environment. I know now. If you think about it, helium balloons are nothing more than floating litter. Would you throw a deflated balloon with string on the ground? Most people

would not. It makes for ugly trash especially on our beaches.

According to an article in February of this year on the Huffington Post website, balloons are among the top 3 most harmful pollutants threatening marine wildlife but they also harm domestic animals such as cattle, dogs and sheep.

Seabirds are most at risk. Deflated balloons are mistaken for jellyfish or squid and are eaten by the birds. Not able to digest the balloon, it will clog the bird's stomach and the bird will eventually

die of starvation. Choking is also a threat.

The ribbons or strings that are attached to the balloon are a hazard to birds because they can become entangled in them when the balloon lands in a tree. They may also use the materials to build a nest causing a risk factor for the hatchlings.

In its natural state, latex is biodegradable but when processed for balloons and treated with chemicals, plasticizers and dyes, it can no longer be classified as natural. It can take a balloon from 6 months to 4 years to decompose. Think of the damage it can cause in that time. Shiny mylar balloons can take even longer.

How can you help? Explain the dangers of releasing helium balloons to your children. Don't plan balloon releases at any of your celebrations and if you know of someone who is planning this, please discourage them from doing so.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a non-profit organization located in Houston. We provide emergency care for Texas wildlife and offer educational and training programs for adults and children focused on wildlife and the environment. Your donations are greatly appreciated. [www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

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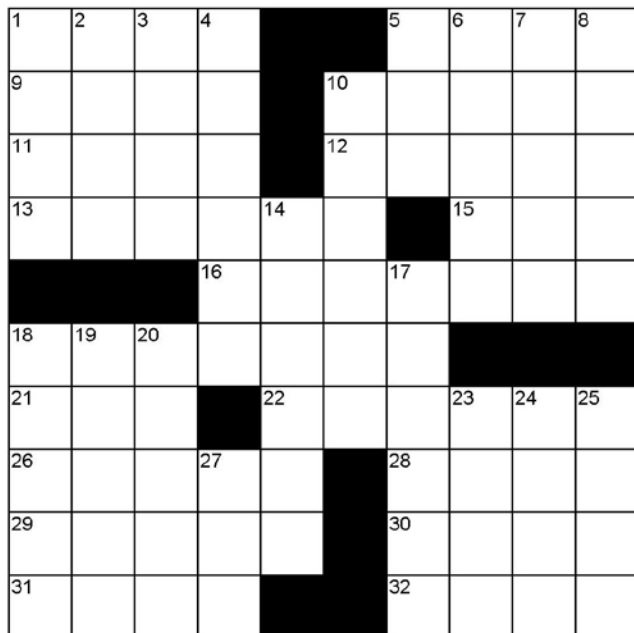
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### ACROSS

1. Squeeze
5. Lovers
9. Women's magazine
10. Special case only (2 wds.)
11. Lemony
12. Passes at the bull
13. Of this
15. Feign
16. Long scoldings
18. Tutee
21. To be
22. Band instrument
26. \_\_\_ cotta (clay)
28. Too
29. Append (2 wds.)
30. Worker
31. Honker
32. University (abbr.)

### DOWN

1. Fit together
2. Healing plant
3. Speak indistinctly
4. To this document
5. Food and drug administration (abbr.)
6. Leading
7. Time being
8. Beats it!
10. Wrangle
14. What the Tin Man needed
17. Naval fleet
18. Devil
19. Doctrine
20. Tends sheep
23. Group of nations
24. Afloat
25. Noble
27. Fish eggs

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- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup 7-up
- 1/2 cup melted butter

## DIRECTIONS

- Mix Bisquick, sour cream and 7 up. Dough will be very soft - don't worry.
- Knead and fold dough until coated with your baking mix.
- Pat dough out and cut biscuits using a round biscuit / cookie cutter.
- Melt butter in bottom of cookie sheet pan or 9x13 casserole dish.
- Place biscuits on top of melted butter and bake for 12-15 minutes or until brown at 425 degrees.



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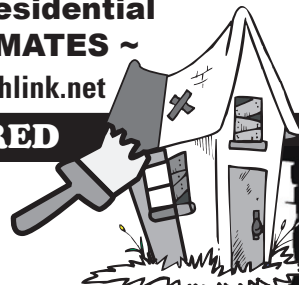
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