

# Introducing the Beginning of a Major Paradigm Shift Prescription Pruning Qualification By Lori Ballard and Lindsey Purcell

*Proper pruning is one of the best things that can be done for a tree; improper pruning is one of the worst things that can be done to a tree. (Shigo)*

As promised, the Prescription Pruning Qualification (PPQ) is complete. This three-day training event was developed to teach proper pruning to anyone who touches trees with hand pruners to chainsaws (Producers) to ISA Certified Arborists (Prescribers).



**Day 1** – Producers and Prescribers - includes basic pruning concepts and terms.

**Day 2** – Prescribers only - includes how to write a prescription.

**Day 3** – Prescribers only – includes review and test.

The PPQ provides the knowledge, research, and tools (prescriptions) necessary to remove less living tissue, create a common language, and establish protocol resulting in consistency between the Prescriber and Producer. The use of prescriptive pruning enables the Prescriber to write a pruning prescription to guide the Producer to achieve the objectives. The Producer implements the prescription by practicing proper pruning and minimizing impacts which creates safer, stronger, healthier trees.

Unlike many of the texts, publications, and pruning seminars, this training event is a practical guide for strategic planning, specifying, and implementing a proper pruning approach. It incorporates consistency with the standards and BMPs in collaboration with current research and practice. The PPQ is the culmination of not only decades of Dr. Gilman's research, but also the commitment of the Prescription Pruning Qualification Committee (Committee) who are passionate about making our trees and industry better. For over two years, this Committee has deliberated over the best methodology for training, testing, and applying this program. We are hopeful this pruning credential will create a major paradigm shift where no tree or group of trees are pruned without a prescription.

Watch for upcoming classes in different locations throughout the state.

The Florida Chapter would like to thank the following individuals for their participation on the Committee and dedication to this program.

<b>Committee Member</b>	<b>Discipline Representative</b>
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