

Coppicing and Pollarding Checklist

1. Identify the purpose of pruning: either for coppicing or pollarding.
2. Determine if the tree is suitable for coppicing or pollarding.
3. Check if the tree is young and hasn't reached maturity.
4. Plan the process for pollarding once the tree has reached the desired height.
5. Schedule the pruning in winter when the trees are typically dormant.
6. If you're coppicing, trim the tree down to a small 'stool' that sits very low to the ground.
7. If you're pollarding, focus on the upper branches of the tree and cut at the head to encourage a denser head of foliage.
8. After pruning, monitor the tree for new growths.
9. If coppicing, consider regular prunes every 5 years or so for decorative purposes, or allow longer growth periods if the off-cuts are intended for material use.
10. If pollarding, consider annual pruning or anywhere between 2 and 5 years, based on the tree's growth and safety considerations.
11. Monitor and ensure the tree receives enough nutrition, especially during the spring months.
12. Be aware of potential issues such as rot, fungi, and other issues resulting from high levels of water if cuts are made too early in the season.
13. Check the growth of the tree after coppicing or pollarding; if the new growths are not lush and bountiful, consider a more hands-on approach.
14. Consider the impact on wildlife and other plants around the base of the tree.
15. Check for the potential extension of the tree's life and reduced damage after coppicing or pollarding.
16. Be cautious with mature trees as they may not recover well from the necessary cuts required for a successful prune.
17. Understand the potential downfalls of coppicing and pollarding, including timing and suitability of the tree.
18. Remember that these methods require continuous maintenance, and the frequency depends on the method and the tree's growth rate.