MOSTLY PRUNING TECHNIQUES YOU SHOULD PROBABLY AVOID ON MATURE TREES…

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Cutting too long

What we did?	Pruned large trees to 4-5m We left the width
Why we did it?	To maintain crop Maximise the tree in the 11m rows Maintain tree structure
What worked?	We got reasonable yield for the amount of tree we took Got some new internal growth
What didn't?	Not enough low growth for following years Width the next year caused ongoing pruning and yield issues For all the work we did getting it down, the trees were too big too quickly and killed off internal growth
What we do now	Work on width first or width as well as height

Cutting too short

What we did?	Cut limbs as part of limb removal technique to about 20 to 30cm from trunk
Why we did it?	To get tree to regrow from close to stump for smaller tree and overall tree size management
What worked?	Not much
What didn't?	We didn't give the cut limb enough light No regrowth off the cut limbs The tree preferenced the limbs we left
What we do now	Take extra limbs to make sure there is full light on the cut limbs Leave the cuts 50-70cm from the trunk - tidy up later if req.

Not cutting enough limbs

What we did?	This is more a general pruning issue when pruning trees regrowing from stags
Why we did it?	Staff are not comfortable to take too many cuts Should have been done sooner after major height reduction
What worked?	Nothing
What didn't?	Access for picking is hard The limbs compete and get too long and spindly
What we do now	Try to get back to an appropriate number of limbs for the row width ie 7m row - 2 to 3 limbs 11m row - 5 to 6 limbs

Hedging

What we did?	General hedging program
Why we did it?	Access Shape Height Cheap Easy
What worked?	Access Trees look good
What didn't?	Low and reducing yields Increased deadwood
What we do now	Only hedge if necessary and only for access Mainly vertical cuts Don't go into the shoulders and tops

Taking the middle out of trees

What we did?	Taking the middle limbs from large trees
Why we did it?	Tallest limb Vase concept
What worked?	Reduced tree height (slightly)
What didn't?	Other limbs crowd area Limited to no internal regrowth Width still beats you (or you reduce yield)
What we do now	Shoulder removal first Only take the internal branch where necessary for height and only if the shoulders are removed first

Prune early

Block	Year Planted	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
BW 14H	2013	0.00	0.00	1.39	7.85	11.21	14.62	9.70	12.54	11.59
BW 16H	2015		1.57	6.85	14.82	14.04	17.79	12.52		
Redridge South 3	2016	0.00	0.33	9.76	12.94	16.65	26.82			

BW14
- Block has overcrowding and no internal limbs
- Had hedging and internal thinning from year 4 to year 6
- Is now getting major limb removal and minor saw work
- Was about 2 years too late changing pruning methodology

BW16
- Had hedging and internal thinning from year 4 to year 6
- Now primarily saw work to get back under control

Redridge South 3
- Pruning every year from planting
- Only manual pruning
- No hedging
- Pruning is fairly quick and picking is cheap

Know your reasons for pruning…

Why	Outcome	Bounds	Method
Height	Picking	4m, 5m, 6m,7m	Shear Hedger Saws Grinder
	Light (in block)	70% row width	Hedger Snips Saws
Light (in tree)	Disease	Spray coverage	Saws
	Quality	Nutrient access giving larger fruit	Snips, saws
	Maximise Fruit Set	80% light interception	Saws Snips
	Next Crop	400mm light penetration	Saws
	Flush	Aim 15-30cm per flush	
Access	Machinery access	2m, 3m,4m?	Hedger
	Operations - skirting, spray access, irrigation, herbicide, spreading	50cm, 75cm, 1m? 750mm agreed good height	Saws
	Picking access	Cross or blocking branches	saws
Health	Pc	Below Pc affected limbs	Snip Saw
	Deadwood	Every year all deadwood?	Cherry pickers saws
	Root to shoot management	?? crop load, fruit size, below affected limbs?	
Structure			