

HOW TO ADD A SIMPLE PRUNING PAINT SPRAYER TO YOUR POLE PRUNER

When you prune your oak trees with a 12 foot pole pruner, painting the pruning wounds can be a sticky problem. You can add a simple paint can sprayer to your pole pruner in 30 minutes or less. If you already have the pole pruner and tools, the materials cost less than \$10.



Tools and Materials:

- Pole pruner, 12 feet long, about \$30, *OR*
 - Extension pole, 12-25 feet long, \$18-40, in the paint department
 - 4 inch strap hinge, about \$3
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- Hose clamp, 4 inches in diameter, about \$1, in plumbing department
 - Machine screw with matching nut and lock washer, about ¼ to ½ inch longer than the width of the pole
 - Twine (about 15 feet)
 - Drill and drill bit that matches the size of the machine screw
 - Screwdriver

1. Drill a single hole all the way through the pruning pole about 4 inches from the top.
2. Drill or cut one small hole through the hose clamp.
3. Thread the machine screw through the bottom hole of the hinge and all the way through the pole.
4. Slip the hose clamp onto the pole and over the end of the screw.
5. Tighten down the lock washer and bolt so the bottom of the hinge and the clamp are attached to the pole.
6. Thread the twine through the top two holes of the hinge and tie the top of the hinge tightly to the pole.
7. Run the long end of the twine through loose end of the hinge and let it dangle down to the bottom of the pole.
8. Insert the paint can into the clamp so the hinge is resting on top of the spray nozzle and tighten the clamp.
9. To spray, just pull the string down so the hinge presses the nozzle.



The advantage of attaching the paint can sprayer directly to your pruning pole is that you can cut and spray each wound as you go. A 25 foot extension pole has a longer reach, but there's a risk of missing some of the wounds when you lose sight of them. You provide the best protection for your oak trees when you paint the cuts immediately. Paint all pruning wounds, even the small ones you make when you're cutting off sprouts.

Thanks to Javier of Central Texas Tree Care for sharing this design. For more information on oak wilt, call Carrie Burns, the Lakeway City Forester, at 261-6098. If you live outside of Lakeway, call the Texas Forest Service Oak Wilt Hotline at (512) 473-3517.