

ROYAL ASCOT TREE PRUNING

One of the main purposes of landscape tree management, is to maintain a tree's natural form, health and longevity within the context of an urban environment and, in so doing, to minimise hazards that may develop from unrestricted branch growth. In general, Royal Ascot conforms to the Cape Town City Council's draft policy on tree management which can be accessed at:

<http://www.capetown.gov.za/en/PublicParticipation/Pages/TreePolicyCityParksDevelopmentPolicy.aspx>

The salient points of this document as it pertains to the pruning of trees are as follows:

“While it is not denied that in certain instances trees may for a nuisance to a property owner, the pruning or removal of trees will not be considered for the following reasons:

- Interference with radio/TV reception.
- Shedding of leaves, fruits, seeds or any other plant material.
- Allergic reactions.
- Causing excessive shade.
- View obstruction (other than reducing visibility of traffic site lines).
- Obscuring private advertising boards and signs (other than public signage).
- Causing a nuisance in respect of swimming pools.
- Hampering the growth of other plants.
- Attracting insects, birds or bats and other creatures because of its flowers and or fruit.”

In addition to the above, trees within the Royal Ascot precinct will be pruned to correct damaged and uneven growth caused by wind in semi-mature and mature trees as well as to encourage balanced crown development in younger trees.

Other indicators informing tree pruning within the precinct are as follows:

- To remove co-dominant leaders, crowded branches and rubbing limbs.
- To remove dead or dying branches.
- To promote growth.
- To remove weak crotches.
- To promote air circulation and light in the interests of disease control.

The Royal Ascot landscape management team i.e. the landscape maintenance contractors, the landscape consultants and the Environmental Management Committee will consider requests for the pruning of precinct trees where they comply with the above.