



COPPICING

Coppicing

Pinoleville Pomo Nation

Layout:

M. Marrufo & T.
McCartney

Coppicing is the traditional art of cutting of trees and shrubs to ground level allowing vigorous regrowth and a sustainable supply of straight shoots for basketry and timber for future use. Coppicing maintains trees at a juvenile stage, and a regularly coppiced tree will never die of old age—some coppice stools may therefore reach immense ages. Coppicing during the spring will disturb nesting and trample the ground



flora. Coppicing should be done when the trees are dormant, December through February. Coppice material cut in the winter works better and lasts longer than that cut when the sap levels are higher.

Cutting Techniques

Trees are cut down to almost ground level. New growth will sprout from the perimeter of the stump, and should be thinned to the

strongest branches.

A sloping cut is traditional as it sheds water and prevents fungal decay. A low cut will maximize the yield and encourages shoots to develop their own roots; it is also safer to work when stumps are cut low. The bark below the cut



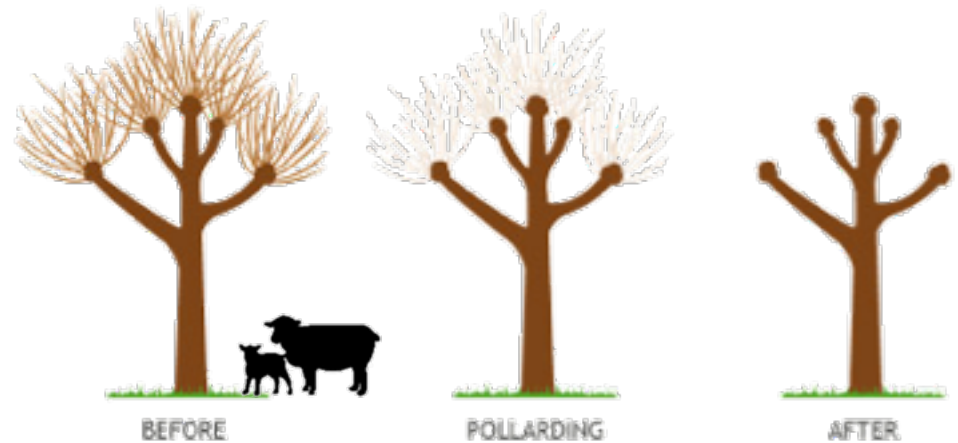
Right



Wrong

Other Techniques

Pollarding is a form of coppicing that prunes the trees 4- 6 feet above the ground, leaving a strong trunk. This system keeps the new shoots away from grazing animals.



Coppiced trees in Pomo Country include:

Willows Redbud Dogwood Redwood
Tanoak Manzanita Madrone Wild Plum
Red-twigged dogwood and more...

