

# City of Bangor Pole Pruner Assembly and Operating Instructions

**⚠ Please read these instructions, in their entirety, before proceeding ⚠**

The City of Bangor Public Works Department Forestry Division is please to offer pole pruners to help residents combat the browntail moth problem on their property. The pole pruner is not a toy and must be treated with respect. Only individuals 18 years or older should operate the pole pruner. You can watch a video of this process here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGaSMB1Ga6c>

## Safety

The pole pruner is designed for outdoor use. Familiarize yourself with the assembly and proper use procedures before beginning. Users must exercise caution and common sense with the use of this hand tool.

Please heed the following warnings:

- Wear appropriate work gear when using the pruner, including shoes/boots with good soles, gloves, safety glasses, and weather appropriate clothing
- Do not wear loose clothing or jewelry that may tangle in the pole or pull rope
- Before proceeding, please ensure you have a safe area in which to use it
- Only use the pruner in an area where you have stable footing
- Clear the area where you will be working of trip hazards, automobiles, etc.
- Do not use near power lines, homes, or other electrical infrastructure
- Do not use the pole pruner while under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or medication
- Do not drop the pole to the ground – it may break
- Do not use the pole as a prying/leverage device – it may break
- Do not use the pole to support your body weight – it may break
- Do not wrap the rope around any part of your body – it may result in injury to user
- Do not let the rope rub on exposed skin – it may result in injury to user



## Assembly

The pole pruner kit is comprised of 8 sections of poles contained in a green canvas bag. There are three main types of pole.

- Base – this is the only section with two rubber grips and a plastic connector sleeve
- Extensions – six sections with two black plastic sleeve connectors, one at each end
- Pruner – This is the only section with a silver cutting apparatus and rope attached
- Actuating Rope – unwind the rope from the carrier, ensuring there are no knots or kinks

Every time the pruner is used it must, at a minimum, have the Base Section and Pruner Section. If additional height is needed to reach desired branches, Middle Section can be added to increase the height/reach. Each section added increases the weight of the pruner, which may make it more difficult to control. For this reason, only add enough middle sections to reach your desired height.

To connect two sections:

1. Insert the male end (bare pole) into the female end (black plastic sleeve)

- a. The poles must be aligned in order for one section to slide into the other section



2. Once the two black plastic section are touching, engage the plastic threads and screw the two sections together
3. Once the two sections are properly connected, the silver lock button will pop up into the round cut-out in the female end



### Use

While this pole pruner may be able to handle some larger branches, its intended use is for cutting very small branches and twigs, as close as possible to the site of the browntail moth winter web. Cutting larger branches creates additional stress on the pruner and hazards as the cut ends fall to the ground – **this is not recommended with the loaned pole pruner.**

When the pole is assembled to the appropriate height for clipping browntail moth winter webs, the user should grasp the pole as close to the center as possible, keeping the rope clamped next to the pole with your hands, then raise the cutting end slowly, keeping the weight and control of the pole as close to the body as possible to avoid arm or body strain.

Once the pole is at the correct height, move it to the branch, dropping the hooked section over the branch, within a few inches of the winter web. Steadying the pole with one hand and your body, grasp the rope in your other hand and pull straight down, parallel to the pole, activating the cutting blade. Once the winter web is cut, it will fall. If the cut winter web gets caught up in other branches, carefully use the pole pruner to dislodge it to fall to the ground. Do not leave the web in the tree – the caterpillars can still survive and hatch in the spring if you do not dispose of the nest.

### Winter Web Disposal

Browntail moth winter webs should be disposed of by soaking in soapy water to drown the caterpillars. Once the nests have soaked in soapy water, dispose of them with your household trash.

### Disassembly

The pole pruner can be disassembled by pushing in on the silver lock button while simultaneously unscrewing the two sections. Do not use a tool to push in the silver lock button as you can break the button off inside the pole.

Once the sections have been disassembled, wrap up the rope on the carrier, clean off any mud, snow, or branch debris, and return all section to the green canvas bag.

### Final Thoughts

Use the pole pruner for what it was designed for. Be careful and thoughtful with its use. It is heavy and can be difficult to control. Do not allow it to fall on a person, a pet, a vehicle, home, etc., as it may cause significant injury or damage. You have rented it for one week, please be sure to return it so someone else may use it.

Good luck managing browntail moth on your property!

