

HOW TO ADD A SIMPLE PRUNING PAINT SPRAYER TO YOUR POLE PRUNER - *REVISED NOV. 2020*

When you prune your oak trees with a 12 foot pole pruner, sealing the wounds can be a sticky problem. If you already have the pole pruner and tools, you can add a simple paint can sprayer directly to the pole for about \$15 in less than 30 minutes. 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 disadvantage is that the saw blade often gets in the way!

Spray can attachments that screw on top of painters' extension poles can be found at amazon.com and other retailers for \$20-30. Search online for "spray can pole adapter" or "long reach universal sprayer." Sadly, Spectracide's Reach'n Spray, previously sold at the Bee Cave Home Depot, is out of stock locally and online as of November 2020.



Tools and Materials:

- Pole pruner, 12 feet long, about \$30
- 4 inch strap hinge, about \$3
- 2 hose clamps, 4 inches in diameter, about \$1 each (in plumbing department)
- 2 machine screws with matching nuts and lock washers 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 screws
- Screwdriver
- Sticky felt pads to put on bottom of furniture feet – about \$3 – or –
- Duct tape
- Optional: Spare spray can nozzle tips – about \$2 for a package of five. Recommended in case the nozzle clogs or pops off the can.



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. Repeat with the second hose clamp about 4 inches below the first (not shown in photo).
7. Thread the twine through the top two holes of the hinge and tie the top of the hinge tightly to the pole.
8. Run the long end of the twine through loose end of the hinge and let it dangle down to the bottom of the pole.
9. Insert the paint can into the clamp so the hinge is resting on top of the spray nozzle and tighten the clamps.
10. Stick the felt pad on the underside of the hinge so it rests on top of the spray nozzle. This will keep the nozzle from wobbling and popping off the top of the can. Trim edges of the pad if needed.
11. Alternatively, put a strip of duct tape across the top of the spray can on top of the tip to hold it in place.
12. To spray, just pull the string down so the hinge presses the nozzle.



If you just don't have time to build a spray can attachment, tape a paint brush to the end of a broom or pole and use any liquid paint you have on hand to seal the cuts. What a drippy mess that will be, but it works in a pinch.

Thanks to Javier of Central Texas Tree Care for sharing this design. For more information on oak wilt, call the Lakeway City Forester at 512-314-7538 or visit www.Lakeway-tx.gov or www.texasoakwilt.org.