The Safe Pole Saw & Pruning Guide

A companion guide for the Greenworks 24V 8" Cordless Pole Saw — safety rules, clean-cut technique, chain care, and a seasonal pruning calendar.

1. Safety rules — read before the first cut

- **Wear the gear every time:** safety glasses, gloves, long sleeves, sturdy closed shoes, and hearing protection. Falling twigs and sawdust go everywhere.
- **Check the work zone:** keep children, pets, and bystanders at least 15 feet away. Never cut above people.
- **Watch the weather:** do not use a pole saw in rain, high wind, or lightning. Wet branches conduct electricity and slip.
- **Stay clear of power lines:** never cut branches near overhead lines. Call your utility company instead — this is not a DIY job.
- **Keep both hands on the tool:** one hand on each grip, feet planted, and never overreach. If the branch is too far, move the ladder or the saw — never lean.
- **Check chain tension before every session:** the chain should lift slightly from the bar and snap back. A loose chain can derail; a tight chain overheats.
- **Keep the oil tank topped up:** a dry chain dulls fast and can kick back. The translucent tank lets you check the level at a glance.
- **Remove the battery before any adjustment:** tensioning, cleaning, or clearing a jam — battery out first, always.

2. The clean-cut technique

- **The three-cut method:** for any branch over 1 inch, cut once from below about 6 inches out, then cut from above a little farther out, and finally cut flush at the branch collar. This stops the bark from tearing.
- **Let the saw do the work:** light, steady pressure is enough. Forcing the bar bends the cut and wears the chain.
- **Cut at the branch collar:** the swollen ring where the branch meets the trunk. Never cut flush into the trunk, and never leave a long stub.
- **Work top-down on tall limbs:** remove the outer weight first, then take the branch in sections. A heavy limb can swing and bind the bar.
- **Clear the drop zone:** know where each cut piece will fall before you pull the trigger.

3. Chain tension, oil, and storage care

- **Out of the box:** check chain tension first. New chains stretch in the first hour of use, so re-check after the first session.
- **Sharpen or replace:** if the saw throws dust instead of chips, the chain is dull. A sharp chain throws clean chips and cuts fast.
- **Oil after every session:** wipe the bar, top up the oil, and check the oiler hole for sawdust clogs.
- **Storage:** store upright in a dry place. Some oil may weep from the reservoir — keep a rag underneath and empty the tank for long storage.
- **Battery care:** store the 2.0Ah battery at room temperature, partly charged. Run the saw every few weeks in the off-season so the battery stays healthy.

4. Seasonal pruning calendar

Season	What to prune	Notes
Late winter	Dead wood, crossing branches, shape	Best time — trees are dormant and the structure is visible.
Spring	Flowering shrubs after bloom	Wait until flowers fade, or you cut off next year's blooms.
Summer	Light shaping, water sprouts	Small cuts only; heavy pruning stresses trees in heat.
Fall	Dead or damaged limbs only	Avoid heavy cuts — fresh wounds heal slowly before winter.

5. Quick pre-flight checklist

- Battery charged and clicked in firmly.
- Chain tension checked — lifts slightly, snaps back.
- Oil tank filled; bar and chain lightly oiled.
- Work zone clear; no one underneath the branch.
- Safety glasses and gloves on.

Created by ZoxDeal as a free bonus companion to the Greenworks 24V 8" Cordless Pole Saw review. Prices and availability change — check the live price on Amazon before you buy. Stay safe, and happy pruning.