

Example 1

There is a great interest for using crop residues that remain after harvest as a renewable feedstock for biofuel production. Removing crop residue could have a negative impact on soil organic C (SOC) levels and consequently on soil quality and plant productivity.

Management practices that include organic residue addition, as a nitrogen source, could compensate for removing the residue and preventing the deterioration of soil quality and grain yield through time. The objectives of this study are; (i) identify the rate of residue removal that maintain soil productivity; and (ii) evaluation the advantages of using beef manure, as a nitrogen source, vs. commercial fertilizer as a replacement for the crop residue removal.

Rewrite (combine first 2 sentences and correct bad semicolons)

Interest in using crop residues as a renewable feedstock for biofuel production is great, but removing crop residue could have a negative impact on soil organic C (SOC) levels, and consequently on soil quality and plant productivity. Management practices that include adding organic residue as a nitrogen (N) source could compensate for removing the residue and prevent the deterioration of soil quality and grain yield through time. The objectives of this study are to (1) identify the rate of residue removal that maintains soil productivity and (2) evaluate the advantages of using beef manure as an N source vs. commercial fertilizer as a replacement for crop residue.

Example 2

Starch, the storage polysaccharide of higher plants, is an important natural, renewable and biodegradable material. However, native starches have limited industrial uses. To extend their applications, chemical modification is often used to alter physicochemical properties of starch (Wurzburg, 1995).

Rewrite (correct use of *however* and make last sentence more direct [but it's still in passive voice])

Starch, the storage polysaccharide of higher plants, is an important natural, renewable, and biodegradable material; however, native starches have limited industrial uses. Chemical modification is often used to alter the physicochemical properties of starches and to extend their applications (Wurzburg, 1995).

Example 3 (minimize repetition and wordiness, clarify sentences and points, and enhance organization)

These winter temperature swings are creating some fine opportunities to work in the garden and I now have winter garden fever. If this keeps up, it looks like I might be in for a milder case of spring fever.

Pruning is the typical dormant season chore. One can start pruning fruit and ornamental plants. Extension has many resources to provide best pruning practices. Those are available as publications and videos obtainable at www.ksre.ksu.edu.

I didn't get the memo on this year's winter weather. It is suppose to be cold and snowy. My workshop on pruning fruit trees isn't until (date) at (location). The ornamental pruning workshop is schedule for March 10 at the KSU Gardens. It is anyone's guess what the weather will be like on those days.

Removal of unwanted woody plants is the pruning that I'm engaged in at this time. Safety is the most important knowledge to have when removing large plants. I prefer to stick with small plants that a handsaw will cut down. That size of plant will typically sprout if not treated with triclopyr or glyphosate. Read and follow herbicide label directions.

Felling a good size tree takes knowledge and practice. I suggest using a certified arborist to have it done. The medium size tree I needed taken down wasn't near anything it could damage. My teenage son was willing to chop it down. Sometimes you have to take advantage of a situation. I would have used the chainsaw.

The tree came down safely after many swings with an axe. We were hoping to fell it to the north but we could tell that it was more likely going south. Either way was okay. I twas just further to carry limbs.

Felling a tree is risky business. There is a publication to learn how it is suppose to be done. Get help if you need it. You won't want to be sidelined once spring fever hits.

Rewrite

I didn't get the memo on this year's winter weather, which is anything but cold and snowy. Our temperature swings are creating some fine opportunities to work in the garden, so I have winter garden fever. If this continues, I might be in for a milder case of spring fever.

Pruning is a typical dormant season chore; now is a good time to start pruning fruit and ornamental plants. Extension has many publications and videos about best pruning practices at www.ksre.ksu.edu. Another resource is my workshop on pruning fruit trees on (date) at (location). An ornamental pruning workshop is also scheduled for March 10 at the KSU Gardens. What the weather will be like on those days is anyone's guess.

Right now I'm removing unwanted woody plants. Because removing large plants requires proper safety training, I prefer to stick with small plants that a handsaw will cut down. These plants typically will sprout if not treated with triclopyr or glyphosate. Be sure to read and follow label directions when using herbicides. If you need to fell a good-sized tree, I suggest using a certified arborist who has the necessary knowledge and practice.

I needed to take down a medium-sized tree, and my teenage son was willing to chop it down. (I would have used the chainsaw.) The tree wasn't near anything it could damage. Sometimes you have to take advantage of a situation.

The tree came down safely after many swings of the axe. We were hoping to fell it to the north, but we could tell that it was more likely going south. Either way was okay; it just meant carrying the limbs farther.

If you need to engage in the risky business of felling a tree, consult our publication to learn how and get help if you need it. You won't want to be sidelined when spring fever hits.