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› [ARS](#) /

› [ARS HP-310 Curved Blade Fruit Pruner Instruction Manual](#)

## ARS HP-310

# ARS HP-310 Curved Blade Fruit Pruner Instruction Manual

Model: HP-310

## INTRODUCTION

The ARS HP-310 Curved Blade Fruit Pruner is a specialized tool designed for precise harvesting of fruits and vegetables, as well as light pruning tasks. Its unique snub-nose, curved tip blade is engineered to protect delicate produce during cutting. Constructed with durable all-metal components and featuring non-slip coated, ergonomic handles, this pruner is built for comfort and efficiency.

Key features include:

- Snub-nose, curved tip blade design for fruit protection during harvesting.
- Robust all-metal construction for durability.
- High-quality spring mechanism for smooth operation.
- Integrated strap to securely hold the pruner closed when not in use.
- Ergonomically designed handles for comfortable and reduced-effort use.

## SAFETY INFORMATION

Always prioritize safety when using any cutting tool. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in injury.

- **Sharp Blades:** The blades are extremely sharp. Handle the pruner with care and keep fingers clear of the cutting path.
- **Protective Gear:** Wear appropriate protective gloves to prevent cuts and to minimize the risk of pinching, especially near the hinge mechanism.
- **Storage:** Always engage the safety strap to lock the blades closed when the pruner is not in use. Store the tool in a secure location, out of reach of children and pets.
- **Intended Use:** Use this tool only for its intended purpose of cutting plant material. Do not use it for cutting wire, metal, or other hard materials.
- **Proposition 65 Warning:** This product may expose you to chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm.

## SETUP

Before first use, and prior to each operation, ensure the pruner is ready for safe and effective performance.

1. **Unpackaging:** Carefully remove the pruner from its packaging. Retain packaging for future storage or transport if desired.
2. **Inspection:** Visually inspect the pruner for any signs of damage, loose parts, or manufacturing defects. Do not use if damaged.
3. **Disengage Safety Strap:** The pruner features a safety strap that holds the blades closed. To open, slide the black strap away from the blade tips towards the handle base. The spring will then open the blades.
4. **Test Operation:** Gently squeeze and release the handles a few times to ensure the spring mechanism operates smoothly and the blades open and close freely.

## OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

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The ARS HP-310 pruner is designed for precision and ease of use in harvesting and light pruning.

### Harvesting Fruit and Vegetables

The curved, snub-nose blade is ideal for cutting stems close to the fruit without causing damage to the produce itself.

1. **Positioning:** Carefully position the curved blade around the stem of the fruit or vegetable you wish to harvest. Ensure the fruit itself is not in the path of the blades.
2. **Cutting:** Apply firm, steady pressure to the handles to make a clean, swift cut through the stem. Avoid twisting or wrenching the pruner.
3. **Access:** The compact size and snub-nose design allow for easy access into dense foliage to reach produce in tight spaces.



Image: The ARS HP-310 pruner in use, carefully cutting a lemon from its branch. The curved blade is positioned to sever the stem without damaging the fruit.



Image: Harvesting a kiwi fruit with the ARS HP-310 pruner. The precise cut ensures the fruit remains intact and undamaged.

### General Pruning

While optimized for harvesting, these pruners are also suitable for light pruning tasks such as deadheading flowers or trimming small, soft stems.

- Ensure the stem or branch fits comfortably within the blade opening. Do not attempt to cut branches thicker than the blade capacity to avoid damaging the tool or the plant.
- Make clean, angled cuts to promote plant health.

## MAINTENANCE

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Regular maintenance will extend the life of your ARS HP-310 pruner and ensure optimal performance.

### Cleaning

- After each use, especially when cutting sappy plants, clean the blades thoroughly with a damp cloth or brush.

- Remove all sap, dirt, and plant debris.
- Dry the blades completely with a clean, dry cloth to prevent rust and corrosion.

## Lubrication

- Periodically, apply a few drops of light machine oil or specialized tool lubricant to the pivot point and the spring mechanism.
- Open and close the pruner several times to distribute the lubricant evenly. This ensures smooth operation and prevents stiffness.

## Sharpening

- When the blades become dull and cuts are no longer clean, sharpening is required.
- Use a fine-grit sharpening stone or diamond file. Sharpen only the beveled edge of the cutting blade.
- Maintain the original angle of the blade during sharpening. Sharpen in one direction, away from the cutting edge.
- After sharpening, clean off any metal filings and apply a light coat of oil to the blades.

## Storage

- Always engage the safety strap to lock the blades in the closed position before storing.
- Store the pruner in a dry environment to prevent rust. Avoid damp or humid conditions.

## TROUBLESHOOTING

Refer to this section for common issues and their solutions.

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Blades not cutting cleanly or tearing plant material.	Dull blades, sap buildup, or debris.	Clean blades thoroughly. Sharpen blades as described in the Maintenance section.
Handles feel stiff or difficult to open/close.	Lack of lubrication at the pivot point or spring.	Apply light machine oil to the pivot and spring. Work the handles to distribute.
Rust spots appearing on blades or metal parts.	Improper drying after use or storage in a humid environment.	Clean rust with a rust remover. Ensure blades are always dried completely after cleaning and stored in a dry place. Apply a protective oil.
Safety strap is difficult to engage or disengage.	Debris or minor misalignment.	Clean the strap and surrounding area. Ensure blades are fully closed when engaging the strap.

## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Brand</b>	ARS
<b>Model Number</b>	HP-310

<b>Blade Material</b>	High Carbon Steel
<b>Blade Length</b>	26 Millimeters
<b>Blade Type</b>	Bypass
<b>Handle Material</b>	Polyvinyl Chloride
<b>Item Weight</b>	90 Grams (approximately 3.17 ounces)
<b>Product Dimensions</b>	7"L x 2"W (approximately)
<b>Hand Orientation</b>	Ambidextrous
<b>Point Style</b>	Curved

## WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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Specific warranty details for the ARS HP-310 Curved Blade Fruit Pruner are not provided in this manual. For comprehensive warranty information, product support, or to inquire about replacement parts, please contact ARS directly through their official website or authorized distributors.

Always refer to the manufacturer's official channels for the most accurate and up-to-date support information.