

Exhibit N - Tree/ Palm Pruning Guidelines

For all contractors providing tree and palm pruning services with the Pelican Sound community, the following standards:

Quality Control

All work is to be performed in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A-300 and Z133.1 standards and associated Best Management Practices for Tree Pruning.

<http://www.woodlandtree.com/assets/1792/pruningstandards.pdf>

All pruning must be done in compliance with all safety requirements of the US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Pruning must be done in compliance with the Lee County and Village of Estero Tree Maintenance Standards attached below.

<http://www.leegov.com/dcd/Documents/ES/TreeRequirements.pdf>

Pruning Standards

Palms: Palms are to be pruned to remove dead, dying and diseased fronds, as well as fruiting bodies and stalks and leaf stubs. No fronds are to be removed above the horizontal plane (beyond the clock position of 9:00 to 3:00 positions). The use of climbing spikes for pruning trees and palms are strictly prohibited. It is acceptable to prune a non symmetrical canopy to avoid contact with a building.

Trees: Trees are to be pruned so that no more than 25% living foliage is removed from a single tree. The principal goal of this tree pruning effort is to improve tree structural health and correct structural problems caused by historic over-lifting, by helping to reduce co-dominant stems/establish single central leaders, reducing the overall height of the trees and utilizing shoot/sucker growth to restore lower portions of the canopies. Pruning priorities will vary depending on the condition of the tree and previous pruning practices. Structural tree pruning will consist of the following pruning:

1. Removal of dead branches, with the larger branches of two inches in diameter and greater a priority (crown cleaning)
2. Subordination of co-dominant stems and related improvements to branch structure (with the exception of small trees purposefully grown as multi-stem, such as crepe myrtle)
3. Removal of adventitious shoots/sucker growth, except where needed to restore desired branch structure (i.e. to grow new branches to restore over-lifted trees)
4. Removal/reduction of branches for clearance from infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, roadways parking areas and buildings
5. Crown reduction to reduce overall tree height to address a specific conflict.
6. It is acceptable to prune a non symmetrical canopy to avoid contact with a building.

Pruning Standards (continued)

Branches **shall not** to be stub-cut (cutting a branch to a mid-point not adjacent to a secondary branch) unless the branch has been damaged and no suitable lateral branch exists. Removed branches shall not be flush cut. Tree canopies **shall not** be overlifted (excessive removal of lower branches), except when needed for specific clearance requirements. Overall, cuts should be made to branches three inches in diameter or less when practical to preserve the natural form of the tree and reduce the visibility of pruning scars.

Pruning Contractor Qualifications

All tree and pruning work must be performed under the direction of an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist.

Insurance

Through a Certificate of Insurance (CoI) , all contractors must provide proof of worker's compensation insurance for their the work crew, general and automotive liability insurance for a minimum of \$300,000. Upon award of contract, the Contractor must provide an updated Certificate of Insurance naming the River Ridge Community Development District (CDD), Master Association, Neighborhood Association and Individual Lot Owner (as applicable) as additional insureds.