



PELICAN SOUND  
GOLF & RIVER CLUB

# Florida-friendly Palm and Tree Guide







# Florida-friendly Palm and Tree Guide

## Introduction

The Pelican Sound Florida-friendly Palm and Tree Guide is designed to educate and assist neighborhood associations and community residents with making good tree selections within the Pelican Sound Community. The guide provides general information about Florida-friendly landscapes with specific focus on palms and trees. Tree species recommendations are provided in two groups; smaller maturing sized trees and larger maturing sized trees.

The Tree Guide was produced by:

*Rick Joyce, ISA Certified Arborist, Forestry Resources Ecological, Inc. 11/2018*



# What Is A Florida-friendly Landscape?

A Florida-friendly Landscape is a quality landscape that is designed, installed and maintained according to the nine



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ principles created by the University of Florida, Environmental Horticulture Department.

The nine Florida-friendly principles seek to reduce environmental impact from landscaping by selected the right plants, properly applying water, fertilizer and pesticides, creating wildlife habitat, preventing erosion, recycling horticulture waste and other sound horticulture practices.

For more detailed information about Florida-friendly landscapes, the Florida-friendly website is: <https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/>



# Palms and Trees in a Florida-friendly Landscape

## Right Plant, Right Place

Florida-friendly landscape - Principle # 1

*Right Plant, Right Place* concept is critically important to palms and trees that have long lives in our landscapes.

A Florida-friendly palm or tree is native or noninvasive introduced tree that does not cause harm to Florida natural systems

Introduced palms or trees that show invasive characteristics and are listed with the Florida Exotic Pest Council (EPPC) should not be planted

There are many variables to consider when making a palm and tree selection for a given planting area



# **Palm and Trees in a Florida-friendly Landscape**

Important variables to consider in palm and tree selection

- Size at maturity, crown (top) and roots (bottom)
- Location of buildings, underground and overhead utilities, including all outdoor lighting
- Soil conditions – Dry, wet, sand, organic
- Light conditions – Sun, filtered light, shade
- Wind tolerance and exposure of the palm or tree
- View window(s) from buildings to features
- Palm and tree form, color of flowers, leaf litter
- Florida Grades and Standards – Require a minimum of Florida Fancy or Florida #1 quality palm and trees



# Origin of Florida Native Flora



Temperate  
Southeastern US Coastal Plain

Southwest Florida and Estero  
is a mix of temperate and  
tropical tree origins

Tropical  
West Indian & Caribbean



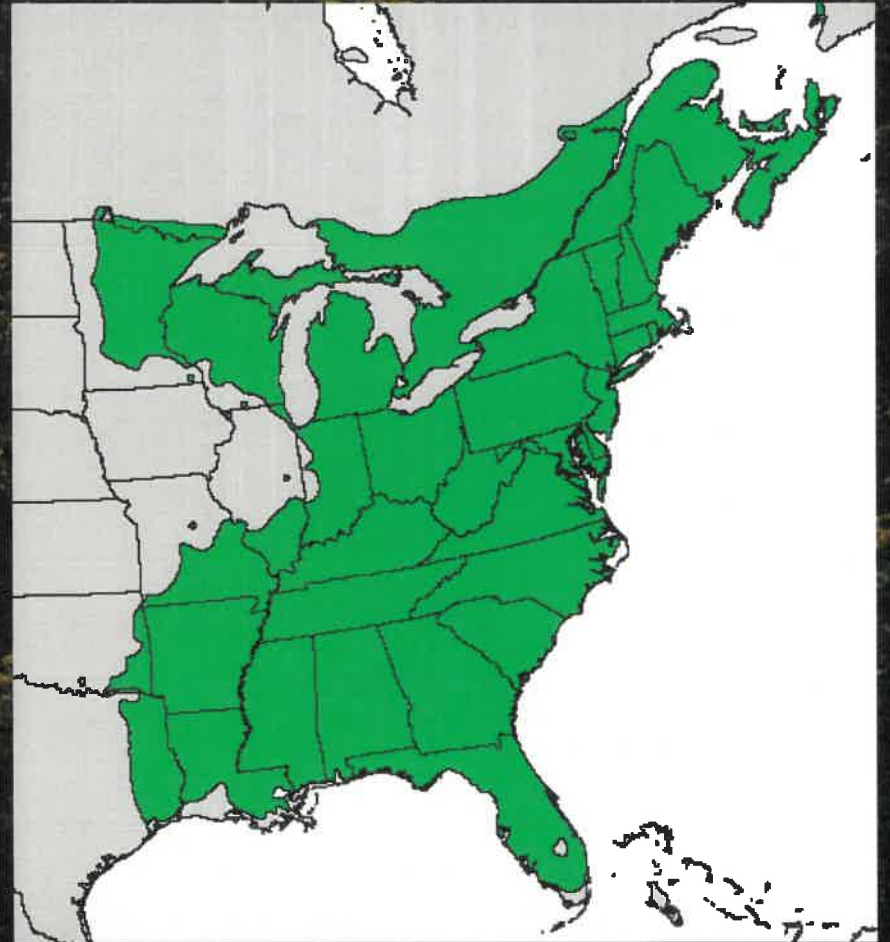


# Importance of Tree Provenance (origin)

Native palms and trees can have a very wide natural occurring range

It is important to source local palms and trees that are grown locally

For palms and trees with wide natural ranges, like red maple, it is wise to confirm origins of the plants



red maple tree range map



**“By gathering seed from trees which are close to our homes and close to our hearts, helping them to germinate and grow, and then planting them back into their original landscapes, we can all make a living link between this millennium and the next, a natural bridge from the past to the future.”**

***Chris Baines***



Mature bald cypress tree



# Key to the Palms and Trees

## *Light conditions*

**FS - Full sun**

**FL - Filtered light**

**S - Shade**

## *Soil / water*

**D - Dry**

**M - Moist**

**W - Wet**

## *Recommended planting location with the community*

**ST - Street tree**

**CT - Canopy tree in parking lots**

**GT - General tree for open landscape areas**

## *Wind tolerance*

**H – High wind tolerance and does better in storms**

**N – Normal wind tolerance**



# Think trees!







## **Recommended Smaller Maturing Trees**

**Height generally below 25 feet**

**Smaller maturing trees should be used in new and for replacement where root growth space is limited due to driveways, sidewalks or utilities**

**Smaller maturing trees with reduced canopy generally tolerant storm winds better than larger maturing trees**



# cocoplum

## *Chrysobalanus icaco*

Evergreen, to 15 feet  
Canopy width to 15 feet wide  
Hardy to many conditions  
Red or green tip varieties  
High drought wet tolerance  
Edible fruits – black or white  
Tolerates pruning well

Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – D, M, W  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind – H





# dahoon holly

## *Ilex cassine*

Medium sized native holly to 25 feet

Upright, canopy to 20 feet wide

Evergreen, cold hardy

Does better in slightly acidic soils

Dioecious – Male and females

Only females have red drupes

Hardy to range of conditions



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – M, W

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H



# geiger tree

## *Cordia sebestena*

Native evergreen, to 25 feet tall

Canopy spread to 20 feet wide

Attractive in the landscape

Hardy to dry conditions

Coastal tolerant

Bright clusters of orange flowers



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind - H



# Jamaican caper

## *Capparis cynophallophora*

Attractive evergreen to 20 feet

Canopy width to 15 feet

Hardy to range of conditions

Cold and drought tolerant

Very durable once established

Profuse fireworks looking flowers

Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H





# myrsine

## *Rapanea punctata*

Darker evergreen, to 20 feet tall

Upright, canopy to 10 feet wide

Hardy to many conditions

Does great in shade

High drought tolerance

Birds like the fruit

Fragrant flowers, great honey!

Light – FL, S

Soil/water – D

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H





# Simpson's stopper

## *Myricanthes fragrans*

Attractive, dark evergreen to 20 feet tall  
Canopy width to 15 feet wide  
Hardy in a wide variety of conditions  
Dense, smaller in sun; lankier in shade  
Branches and trunk twist and turn  
Pretty red berries and peeling bark  
Very fragrant flowers

Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – D, M  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind – H





# wild olive

## *Forestiera segregata*

Generally evergreen to 15 feet

Canopy to 10 feet wide

Green shiny foliage

Hardy - Alkaline soil tolerant

Tough, high drought tolerance

High nectar flowers for pollinators

Purple, olive looking fruits for birds

Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D, M

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H







## **Recommended Larger Maturing Trees**

**Height generally above 25 feet and**

**Larger maturing trees provide the most amount of shade with larger canopy**

**The root plates-root systems are extensive for larger maturing trees and root growth space should be considered before choosing the trees species**



# **bald cypress**

## ***Taxodium distichum***

Large, tall, deciduous to 70 feet

Canopy width to 30 feet

Likes moist soils, will grow in dry

Knees in roots can be trip hazard

Great along lake banks and flowways

Bald has feather looking leaves



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – M, W

Location – CT, GT

Wind – H



# green buttonwood

## *Conocarpus erecta*

Tough, coastal tree to 40 feet  
Canopy to 30 wide  
Historically called button mangrove  
Silver variety not recommended  
Evergreen, deep furrowed bark  
Trunks often do the twist  
Hardy to range of conditions

Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – D, M, W  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind – N





# gumbo limbo

## *Bursera simaruba*

Reddish, peeling bark to 60 feet  
Spreading canopy to 40 feet  
Nicknamed “tourist tree” because  
it’s always red and peeling  
Does well in alkaline soils  
Loses leaves briefly in winter



Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – D  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind – H





# Jacaranda

## *Jacaranda mimosifolia*

Large flowering tree to 40 feet  
Canopy to 30 feet wide  
Semi-deciduous (loses leaves)  
Vibrant purple flowers  
Blooms April to August  
Minimum 20 feet from buildings  
Grows well in sandy soils



Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – D  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind – N



# live oak

## *Quercus virginiana*

Large, longest living Florida oak

Strong structure to 60 feet tall

Spreading canopy to 80 feet

Can be pruned to be more upright

Does well in hurricanes

Icon of Pelican Sound roadway landscaping



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D, M

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H





# red maple

## *Acer rubrum*

Large canopy tree to 70 feet  
Upright canopy to 35 feet wide  
Deciduous, loses all leaves  
Prefers wetter locations  
Fall color and spring red flowers  
Leaves are not a litter problem

Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – M, W  
Location – CT, GT  
Wind – N





# royal poinciana

## *Delonix regia*

Large flowering tree to 40 feet  
Spreading canopy to 60 feet wide  
Semi-deciduous (loses leaves)  
Tropical, lacy foliage  
Bright orange flowers, May to July  
Minimum 20 feet from buildings  
Signature tree of the Caribbean



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – N



# South Florida slash pine

## *Pinus elliotii* var. *densa*

Dominant tree of Florida to 70 feet

Upright, crown to 40 feet wide

Large, tall, longer needles

Does better in slightly acidic soils

Hardy to range of conditions

High drought tolerance

Be sure to specify **var. densa!**

Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind - N





# West Indian mahogany

## *Swietenia mahagoni*

Large canopy tree to 70 feet  
Wide canopy to 50 feet  
Semi-deciduous  
Common in Keys and Caribbean  
Does well in alkaline soils  
Hard seed pods create hazard  
High drought tolerance

Light – FS  
Soil/water – D  
Location – GT  
Wind – N



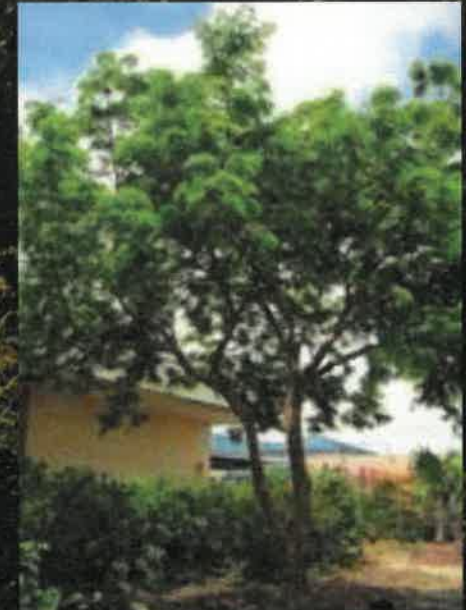


# wild tamarind

## *Lysiloma latisiliquum*

Very large, wide, lacy leaves to 70 feet  
Common in the Bahamas  
Lacy leaves are tropical in appearance  
Fast growing, spreading open canopy  
Tolerant to dry alkaline soils  
Will drop leaves from cold

Light – FS  
Soil/water – D  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind - H







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# Recommended Native Palms



# Palms in a Florida-friendly Landscape

## Basics of palms

Palms are not trees. Palms should be considered very large grasses

The two main types of palms are single-trunk and multi-trunk. Each palm trunk type have appropriate applications in an ornamental landscape

Once the mature palm trunk is formed, the trunk diameter stay about the same diameter and increases in height

The root systems of palms are very fibrous and consist of a large number of smaller roots of the same diameter size



The roots of palms are less likely to cause conflicts with underground utilities, driveways, sidewalks and concrete curbing



# cabbage palm

## *Sabal palmetto*

Single-trunk palm to 80 feet

Crown (head ) diameter of 10 feet

Best landscape palm in Florida

Amazing tough, high wind tolerance

Iconic palm of Florida

Flowers important to pollinators

Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D, M, W

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H (best)





# Everglades palm

## *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii*

Multi-trunk palm to 30 feet

Clumps can be to 20 feet wide

Can be pruned to show trunks

Tough, good wind tolerance

Disease resistant, good in wet soils



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – M, W

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – N



# royal palm

## *Roystonea regia*

Large single-trunk palm to 100 feet  
Crown (head ) diameter of 20 feet  
Self cleaning, losing one frond a month  
Caution: Fronds weigh 70 +/- pounds  
Disease resistant, good wind tolerance  
Famous icon of McGregor Boulevard

Light – FS, FL  
Soil/water – M, W  
Location – ST, CT, GT  
Wind – H





# Florida thatch palm

## *Thrinax radiata*

Small single-trunk palm to 20 feet

Crown (head ) diameter of 10 feet

Elegant looking palmate leaves

Disease resistant, good wind tolerance

Native to Florida Keys, does well here



Light – FS, FL

Soil/water – D, M

Location – ST, CT, GT

Wind – H



Planting trees and palms is not new



City of Venice street palm and street tree planning, Circa 1926



# Components of Great Pelican Sound Trees

- Provenance – Origin – Genetics
- Good overall health and vigor
- Hurricane resistance
- Best Management Practice install
- Appropriate root growing space
- Soil conditions to promote root growth
- Root system without deflection
- Tolerance of growing soil
- Strong branching structure
- Required water and nutrients
- Wood mulch for root zone





# Pruning Palms and Trees for Strength

- Young and mature trees benefit from pruning
- Importance of structural pruning
  - Create Strong branching structure
  - Reduce weakness and failure points
  - Remove dead wood and crossing branches
- Eliminate co-dominate trunks
- Improve tree wind tolerance for storms,
- Improve tree health for longevity
- Crown reduction pruning to address conflicts
- Avoid lion tailing - pruning too much off branch
- Prune palms properly Avoid over pruning palms
  - Prune dead fronds and seed pods only
  - For cabbage palms, use the 3 – 9 on a clock



**Great trees give back for a long time**



**Orange Street - Floral City, Florida**  
**Roadway live oaks planted by a women's garden club in 1883**

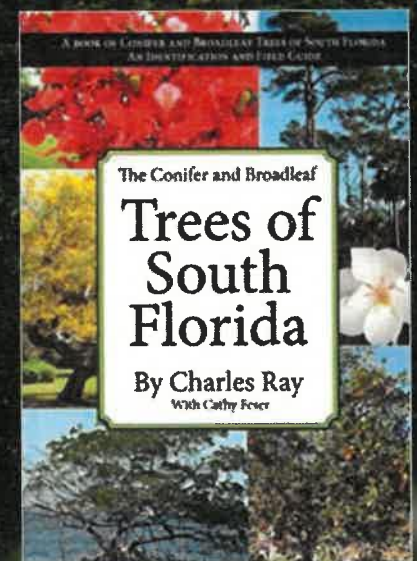
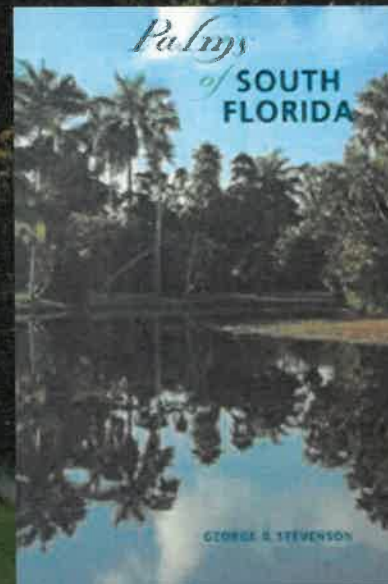
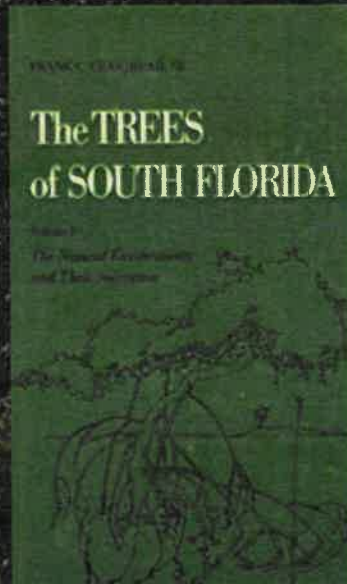


# Where do we learn more?

Learn from the experienced

South Florida books  
Palms and Trees  
Horticulture  
Landscape  
Methods

The internet





# Florida Tree Websites

**Ed Gilman – University of Florida (UF) - IFAS**

Trees and Landscape

<http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/>

Trees and Hurricanes

<http://hort.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes>

Lee County Extension Offices (UF – IFAS)

<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/gardenhome>

Florida Chapter – International Society of Arboriculture

<http://www.floridaisa.com>



<http://hort.ufl.edu/woody/>

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Mulch or soil over the root ball can kill trees. [More...](#)

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Research shows pruning reduces damage. [More...](#)



<http://hort.ufl.edu/treesandhurricanes>

University of Florida

# Trees and Hurricanes

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- ▶ **Managing a Wind-Resistant Urban Forest**  
Pruning Young Trees, Pruning Mature Trees, Developing a Tree Management Plan
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Lessons Learned, Treating Damaged Trees & Palms, Restoration Pruning, Preventing Problems, Evaluating Hazards, Nursery Concerns



## Urban Forest Hurricane Recovery Program

The University of Florida /Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) created the Urban Forest Hurricane Recovery Program after the devastation of the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons.

The main goal of the program is to foster a healthy urban forest that is more wind-resistant. The program is aimed at citizens and communities who seek to rebuild and set better management practices so that future storms are less devastating.

The Urban Forest Hurricane Recovery Program is funded by the **Florida Division of Forestry** and the

## Booklet Available Online

To learn about how to be safe around fallen trees after a hurricane, when and how to restore damaged trees, and ways to prevent damage next time, check out the publication **Assessing Damage and Restoring Trees After a Hurricane**.

Disponible en **Español**




## Research Findings

Check out the recent University of Florida study on the effects of Hurricanes and the Urban Forest:

- Effects on Southeastern United States Coastal Plain Tree Species**  
PDF [436KB]
- Effects on Tropical and Subtropical Tree Species**  
PDF [444KB]



<http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/gardenhome>



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#### Native Plants, Flowering Trees and Garden Almanac

- Native Plants
- Flowering Trees
- Monthly Gardening Advice

#### Ganoderma Butt Rot


Ganoderma.wmv



0:00 / 5:32

#### Important Gardening News


Para la traducción al español, marque aquí.



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tropical and subtropical landscapes, palms.

AltaVista Babel Fish

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### Welcome to the Florida ISA website!

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE is a professional organization dedicated to continuing education for arborists, to tree care research, and to serving tree care consumers around the world. The FLORIDA CHAPTER of the ISA shares this same dedication, with a further commitment to serving the needs particular to Florida's professional arborists and tree care consumers.





Great Pelican Sound trees begin here

