

## Tree Removal Process

All residential and commercial property owners must apply for a tree removal and replacement permit. The intent is to ensure that trees are being removed due to damage caused by roots, or because the tree is diseased or dead, and that it will be replaced with another suitable tree. Please contact the Planning and Engineering Department for specifics prior to removing a tree.

## Violations

Property owners who are notified that they are in violation of the City's landscape code shall correct the violation within twenty working days. All replacement landscape materials must be, at a minimum, consistent with the provisions of the Code. Failure to correct violations will result in Code Enforcement action.

## Questions

Please contact the Planning & Engineering Department at (561) 642-2054 if you have any questions about landscaping.

## Prohibited Trees in All Circumstances

Australian Pine  
Brazilian Pepper  
Carrotwood  
Earleaf Acacia  
Melaleuca  
Schefflera

## Prohibited Species for Satisfying Required Landscaping

Areca Palm\*  
Beauty Leaf\*  
Beach Berry  
Black Olive\*  
Christmas Senna  
Eucalyptus  
Ficus\*  
Golden Rain Tree  
Hibiscus\*  
Hong Kong Orchid  
Ixora\*  
Jacaranda\*  
Lead Tree  
Norfolk Pine  
Purple Orchid  
Sea Grape\*  
Silk Oak  
Java Plum  
Philodendron  
Wedelia  
Woman's Tongue

\* May be allowed under specific circumstances and with City Approval

## Preferred Large Trees & Palms

Bald Cypress\*  
Buccaneer Palm  
Clusia  
Dahoon Holly  
Gumbo Limbo  
Live Oak  
Pigeon Plum  
Red Maple\*  
Sabal Palm  
Satin Leaf\*  
Slash Pine  
Southern Magnolia  
Royal Palm

\* Shall be located near water sources and with City Approval

## Preferred Shrubs, Small Trees & Palms

Blue porterweed  
Cocoplum  
Coontie  
Firebush  
Green Buttonwood  
Green Mound  
Green Island  
Lady Palm  
Natal Plum  
Podocarpus  
Saw Palmetto  
Stoppers  
Sweet Acacia  
Tetrazygia  
Wax Myrtle\*  
Wild Coffee  
Yellow  
Neclacepod  
Yaupon Holly

\* Shall be located near water sources and with City Approval

# City of Greenacres

## Landscape Maintenance Guide



City of Greenacres  
Planning and Engineering  
Department

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Greenacres, FL 33463  
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<http://www.greenacresfl.gov>

## Benefits of Landscaping

Trees and landscaping are important to Greenacres because they create beauty and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Trees in particular help us by providing shade, cleaning the air, reducing noise, controlling soil erosion, and providing habitat for our native wildlife. All landscaping enhances and improves the appearance and character of our community as well as increases our property values.

Since 1991, Greenacres has been recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree City. By providing you this information, our goal is to keep you informed of the City's current landscaping standards. Together we can help keep Greenacres a Tree City.

## General Maintenance

Property owners are responsible for maintenance of all landscaping & irrigation materials.

Landscaping needs to be properly maintained in a healthy, orderly and neat manner and kept free of trash and debris. All dead or dying landscaping requires replacement with plants that meet the minimum size criteria of the Code.

Landscaped areas cannot be used for storing any goods, materials, or inventory; or for selling of any products or services; or for the storage or parking of any vehicles (except those areas which have been allowed by the City as grassed parking spaces).

## Trimming and Pruning

Proper maintenance is important for the long-term health and structure of trees, palms, and shrubs; however, any trimming or pruning must not include the practice of Tree Abuse.

Tree Abuse includes: 1) *Topping* or *Hydrating*, which is the severe cutting back of branches or crown, making cuts to lateral limbs between branch collars and lateral nodes which leave branch stubs larger than 1 inch in diameter within the **tree's** crown; 2) *Lion Tailing*, which is the over-lifting of all branches in the lower half of the tree; 3) Over-pruning of live palm fronds above the horizontal plane; 4) Reduction of more than 25% of the tree canopy per year, and; 5) Any other intentional action that damages, destroys, or neglects the tree or palm. These actions are prohibited by the City Code and violations can result in Code Enforcement action.

Shrubs used as hedges need to be properly maintained at a minimum of 36" high up to a maximum of 8 feet high unless they are located within a sight distance triangle or are located in a landscape buffer adjacent to a busy street in a development that was approved prior to 1986.

Trees and palms need to be given the chance to grow in a shape natural to their species, and may only be pruned to remove limbs or foliage, which presents a hazard to power lines or structures, or to remove dead, damaged or diseased limbs. In no case shall pruning of required trees or palms result in ones smaller than the minimum requirements for spread or height, or which are unnaturally shaped.

## Unnaturally Shaped Tree



## Invasive Species

South Florida's mild climate provides us the opportunity to grow a wide variety of native and exotic plants.

Unfortunately, several species have been introduced from outside Florida over the years that have invaded and are destroying native plant habitats and endangering the existence of native wildlife that depend on the food and shelter of those habitats.

For this reason, the City of Greenacres encourages all property owners and residents whenever possible to not only plant native vegetation, but to also immediately remove any of the **"Prohibited Trees in All Circumstances"** listed on the back of this brochure before removal becomes expensive and difficult. This list does not cover all invasive species in South Florida, so please call for more information.

## Tree Abuse



## Properly Maintained Tree

